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Tory states terms for keeping whip Britain turns the screw in beef battle

By Philip Webster and Michael Dynes

BRITAIN escalated its "beef war" with Europe yesterday, wielding the national veto 12 times to scupper measures that would normally have sailed through.

But as ministers blocked everything that came before them in Brussels, the man in charge of the Cabinet response admitted that it could be six years before all Britain's cattle are free of "mad cow" disease — and even appeared to accept that the beef exports ban could last into the next century.

Roger Freeman later insisted that he had not meant to suggest the ban could last that long, but his remarks added to the confusion over the Government's policy and what it is trying to achieve.

At the same time, a former minister renewed his warning that he would wipe out the Government's Commons majority if John Major turned the beef campaign into a wider battle against Europe.

In an article in *The Times* today, George Walden spells out for the first time the circumstances under which he would resign the Tory whip. He says that if the Government "lurches blindly forward" beyond Mr Major's original objectives of a lifting of the ban on beef by-products and a "framework" for removing the broader embargo, it will do so without him.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, also urged ministers to avoid "the language of xenophobia and jingoism" over beef, but he nevertheless cautiously threw Labour's support behind the policy of non-cooperation. Ministers, however, swiftly rebuffed its demand for consultation over the conduct of the policy.

In his *Times* article, Mr Walden accuses Mr Major of "demeaning" the country and says the Government's un-



Freeman: BSE crisis could last six years

seemly stance will rebound on a Prime Minister who felt weak enough to succumb to his own pique and to petty-nationalistic pressures.

The former Education Minister also expects the Eurosceptics to put Mr Major under pressure to "see it through". "After he gets his lifting of the derivatives ban, and a piece of paper promising a framework to lift the whole embargo, I predict cries of Chamberlain."

He continues: "For the moment I grouch and bear it. But if Mr Major is goaded into widening the assault and extending non-cooperation, instead of hard negotiation, to the future of the Union then I reserve my position. Should the Government lurch blindly forward against an adversary only dimly defined through the fog of nationalist rhetoric engulfing it, then, as our German friends say, *ohne mich*: without me."

Mr Walden's remarks came as pro-European ministers privately urged Mr Major to abandon his policy of non-cooperation at the earliest possible moment and to resist demands from the Eurosceptics for a firm timetable for withdrawing the ban before ending the blocking tactics.

Some ministers have predicted further assertions if Mr Major yields to the Right.

Mr Freeman — one of three ministers on obstruction duty in Brussels yesterday — insisted, however, that the policy was not "anti-German, anti-French, anti-Italian or anti-European". It was simply designed to force Britain's counterpart to realise the extent of the damage the blanket ban was causing the British beef industry.

But he accepted that it might be years before the industry returned to normal. "We acknowledge that BSE is a problem in the UK and in Europe, and it needs to be eradicated," he said.

Asked how long that could take, he said: "It won't happen in the short-term. It certainly is not months. Because of the gestation period, it could take four, five, six years. It may not be possible to say when the UK will be wholly BSE-free."

Mr Freeman acknowledged that Germany was demanding that the disease be eradicated before Britain could resume its export trade, but he said: "It may be possible to lift certain parts of the ban, with the support of our European Union partners, before arriving at that end state", although some countries may refuse to take British beef "until the last BSE cow has been killed".

But later Mr Freeman was forced to issue a statement clarifying his remarks. He said that he had not in any way been suggesting that the ban could last that long. He did not, however, clear up doubts over whether the Government wanted a clear timetable for an end to the ban.

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Paul Gascoigne arriving at Heathrow early yesterday. The England squad had celebrated his twenty-ninth birthday during the flight from Hong Kong

England team tackled over high ball

By Richard Duce and Harvey Elliott

ENGLAND footballers were last night at the centre of a police investigation into damage to the jumbo jet which brought them back from Hong Kong.

Damage to the Cathay Pacific 747 was confined to the area of the plane where the 27-strong squad of players were sitting in the upper business class section before they touched down at Heathrow early yesterday.

Cabin crew are understood to have become so concerned by behaviour on board the aircraft that the captain radioed ahead for police to meet the jet on landing. However, once the plane touched down it was decided a police presence was not necessary.

The airline made a formal protest to the Football Association in a faxed message to Graham Kelly, its chief executive, who was also on the flight, and last night Scotland Yard confirmed it was investigating an allegation of damage to the £30 million plane.

Neither the police nor Cathay Pacific would confirm the exact nature of the complaint which is understood to include damage to televisions in seats in the Club Class section. The incidents coincided with celebrations for the England footballer Paul Gascoigne's twenty-ninth birthday.

One passenger on board the flight from Hong Kong described how he went up to see the England squad to get autographs. He said the area looked like a "bomb site" but there was no evidence of any specific damage.

Last night the FA promised that Terry Venables, the England manager, would make an early investigation into the allegation. Mr Venables had secured all 30 seats in the upper business class to ensure his players were not disturbed on the 12-hour flight.

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, refused to speculate on whether the alleged incident would jeopardise England team selection for the Euro 96 tournament which starts in less than two weeks' time.

Mr Double said Cathay Pacific contacted the FA initially at 3.15pm, which was more than nine hours after the plane touched down at Heathrow.

"No complaint had been received after the team disembarked, nor in the intervening

period," he said. A Scotland Yard spokesman said only: "Police at Heathrow are investigating an allegation of damage to an aeroplane which was received from Cathay Pacific airline."

A spokesman for the airline said the damage to the aircraft was "minimal" and the jet was returning to Hong Kong.

The players would have had some of the very best service during their flight. The airline's Marco Polo business class section has won a number of awards recently after it was relaunched two years ago.

The England squad would have had generous amounts of leg room and personal videos in English, Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Exotic dishes could have been washed down by copious amounts of champagne and wine.

Cathay won the 1996 *Business Traveller* Magazine Award for the best business class airline to the Far East.

Venables choice, page 48



Baby milk 'safe'
Baby milk manufacturers insisted that their products were safe as thousands of parents contacted their GPs. Page 8
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MoD to sell Gulf War troops' gold sovereigns

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THOUSANDS of gold sovereigns given to British troops who were sent to fight in the Gulf War to help them bargain for their lives if caught behind Iraqi lines are to be sold by the Ministry of Defence for about £1 million.

In published accounts of SAS action behind Iraqi lines, special forces' soldiers were described as having gold sovereigns covered over by masking tape hidden behind their webbing belts.

Andy McNab, former SAS sergeant and author of *Bravo Two Zero*, the bestseller about

an SAS patrol in Iraq, said he and his colleagues had each been given 20 gold sovereigns "as escape money". When he was captured by the Iraqis, the gold was discovered and confiscated during interrogation.

Just under 17,000 coins, valued at £60 each, were bought by the MoD from the Royal Mint for the Gulf War servicemen as a precaution and were handed over to frontline units from the army, special forces and RAF, who were to be part of the land and air offensive campaign in Kuwait and southern Iraq.

Servicemen judged to be potentially vulnerable to Iraqi capture, including RAF fighter crews who risked being shot down, and special forces' long-range reconnaissance and Scout-hunting squadrons went to war with gold in their pockets.

However, most of the coins were returned to the MoD after the war in 1991 and now, five years later, a decision has been taken to sell them. About 16,500 gold sovereigns are up for sale by the Royal Mint and Gold Investments in the summer.

Donor saves Nazi row Oxford chair

By Emma Wilkins

OXFORD University's chair of European Thought has been saved weeks after the original donor, the grandson of a Nazi war criminal, asked for his money back.

An anonymous benefactor, who has no previous connection with the university, has guaranteed £250,000 over five years, a spokesman for the university said. The original endowment from Dr Gertrud Flick sparked protests from dons and Jewish groups.

Dr Flick's grandfather, Friedrich Flick, was an adviser to Heinrich Himmler and used 48,000 mostly Jewish

slave labourers to help him to build an industrial empire.

In April Dr Flick asked for his money back, amid fears that there would be demonstrations when Professor John Burrow, the holder of the chair, gave his inaugural lecture. Dr Flick, who lives in London, has been at pains to distance himself from the activities of his grandfather, who was sentenced at Nuremberg as a war criminal.

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, whose article in *The Times* last November initiated the debate, said he was delighted that the chair had been saved.

Mastermind passes on punk band's B-word

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

THE BBC's quiz programme *Mastermind* gets its first taste of censorship tonight when a contestant will answer questions on 'The Sex Pistols', the punk band that gave Western civilisation Johnny Rotten and Sid Vicious.

The corporation's language police have decided to blimp out an expletive uttered by Magnus Magnusson, the

programme's veteran quizmaster, during a question about the band's notorious album, *Never Mind the Bollocks Here's the Sex Pistols*. A BBC spokeswoman said it was the first time in the programme's 24-year history that a question has had to be censored.

"It goes out before the 9pm family viewing watershed so we thought it would not be appropriate to include the word," she said.

She added that Mr Magnusson

retained his legendary sang-froid throughout the recording. "He is a true professional and did not laugh at all when he read out the question."

Alan Whitaker, 36, an unemployed barman from Penzance, who chose the 1970s band as his specialist subject, said he had bought a new copy of the album in preparation for the quiz.

"Punk seems a little silly looking back, but being unemployed now I can still relate to that anger. I'm frustrated — I

suppose that's why I went on *Mastermind*," he said.

Mr Whitaker added that his biggest worry about the programme was not the severity of the questioning, but his mother's reaction to his choice of specialist subject. "I think she might go spare when she sees this. I used to go out at weekends and get dressed up somewhere else, then take it all off before I went home to my parents, so they never even knew," he said.

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Beef offensive bogged down in EU paperwork

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS

THREE British ministers, flanked by a phalanx of political officials, stormed into Brussels yesterday to announce that as long as beef remained off the menu, no other European Union business would remain on the agenda.

As journalists jostled with one another to discover just how devastating Britain's policy of non-cooperation would be, a rare spotlight was cast on the bizarre and hitherto secretive world of ministerial meetings.

ings in Brussels and the arcane language they use.

"No journalist has ever asked to see the full agenda for a development council before," said one British official, utterly bemused by the press's extraordinary attention to the minutiae of ministerial agendas. In the desperate search for hard evidence that John Major's policy was bringing the European Union juggernaut to a halt.

Confronted by Britain's ruthless determination to

place a "general reserve" on a draft resolution on environmental impact assessments for EU-funded Third World projects, most journalists were hard-pressed to find any evidence of the much-vaunted "confrontation" with Brussels.

A general reserve is of course Brussels speak for a veto. But placing this diplomatic weapon in the way of Brussels' attempts to establish a working group to look into migration patterns in the developing world, falls far short of the declaration of all-out war the Brussels press corps was so desperately looking for.

Even the decision to vote down the agreement on a negotiating mandate for EU-Mexican trade relations, which did most to irritate Britain's long-suffering EU partners, lacked the whiff of cordite so essential to any self-respecting war correspondent.

Baroness Chalker, the Overseas Development Minister, "regretted" her decision to strike down eight items on her agenda, while Roger Freeman, the minister for cutting red tape, apologised for his decision to reject Brussels' efforts to eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy. In Brussels such language borders on real fighting talk.

The Dunkirk spirit succeeded in preventing red tape governing building construction projects from being flashed; halting the establishment of standards for ornamental plant health; and delaying proposals for the mutual recognition of diplomas.

But if anyone was in any doubt about the debilitating effect of Britain's policy of non-cooperation, Mr Freeman was on hand to put them straight. "The work of deregulation at a national level can and will go on, and preparatory work by Commission officials can and will continue," he said. "Life goes on. The Commission certainly doesn't need agreement from the Council of Ministers."

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Italy appeals for peace at summit

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ROMANO PRODI, the new Italian Prime Minister, moved yesterday to shore up the threatened European Union summit in Florence. He appealed to John Major not to sabotage the summit over the ban on British beef, and turned to Germany for heavy-weight support.

Signor Prodi, who will chair the summit in three weeks, made Bonn the venue for his first foreign trip since taking office two weeks ago. Before leaving Rome he telephoned Mr Major to tell him that the British policy of "non-cooperation" was becoming "counter-productive".

According to officials at the Palazzo Chigi, the equivalent of No 10, Signor Prodi asked Mr Major to reconsider his boycott of routine EU decision-making and to act "in a constructive spirit of European solidarity". He assured Mr Major that Italy supported the gradual lifting of the beef ban, but stressed that "all decisions must be taken on the basis of the best available scientific evidence".

He was assured of the support of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, for his efforts to keep the timetable for monetary union on track after Italy, which chaired the Turin summit in March as

part of its six-month EU presidency, launched the Maastricht review process only to watch helplessly as it was hijacked by the BSE crisis.

In playing the German card, Signor Prodi is signalling that Italy sees Bonn as the key to Italy's hopes of being a first-division player in Europe. Italian officials hope that Germany will help Italy to join the single currency. Signor Prodi told Parliament last week that his main task was to fulfil the Maastricht criteria for monetary union by putting Italy's public finances on a sounder footing, reducing the budget deficit and tackling unemployment.



Prodi: asked Britain to reconsider EU boycott



Baroness Chalker, right, with Emma Bonino, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, yesterday

German tabloids accuse Major of sowing the seeds of hatred

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

GERMANY'S tabloids fired a new salvo in the press war with Britain yesterday, accusing John Major of sowing the seeds of hatred. The attack, which was unusually personal, follows a week of grumbling and howling protest, most of it aimed at *The Sun*.

Munich's *Abend Zeitung* was the latest to join the counter offensive, making the obligatory shocked reference to *The Sun's* 20-point list of ways to irritate Germans and other continental Europeans.

"We Germans have come at just the right moment for the English. First we boycott British beef and now we want to grab the European championship — on their very own island," the newspaper said.

The criticism was rare in that it singled out the Prime Minister for blame — "head of government Major has secretly sown the hatred". The

German press usually gives kinder treatment to the Prime Minister than to his predecessor, but the *Abend Zeitung* editorial may signal a sea-change. The tabloids have already started to be enthusiastic about Tony Blair.

Yesterday however the hero was the Bayern Munich striker Jürgen Klinsmann, who has apparently agreed to tuck into British beef to improve Anglo-German relations. "Klins is Germany's best ambassador on the island," the paper said.

Serious papers are also talking in martial metaphor. "Major is losing the beef war on the home front," trumpeted the *Bonn General Anzeiger*, referring to the public doubts of George Walden. The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* tried to switch the idiom towards the game of poker. "Major's declaration of war is

emerging as a flop — he was wrong to think that moderate Conservative MPs would remain loyal. The anti-Europe cause was not a trump card. Indeed George Walden could call the bluff."

There was thus a clear division between mass-market German papers which thought Klinsmann could rescue Anglo-German relations and those who favoured George Walden. The venerable *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* called on Britain to show more consistency and refresh its memory.

"The United States has not imported British beef since 1959 because of BSE but nothing has been heard about 'obstructing' the Nato Council and there has been no sign of indignation in Washington. Could this be because only anger against the favourite enemy — Europe — promises

improved popularity?" Politicians lined up to express their regret at the British campaign. Karl Lamers, the Christian Democrat foreign affairs expert, told *Focus* magazine: "The British are making a big mistake: they are confusing Germany with Europe." British threats, he said, were unrealistic. Britain would not let things come to a test of strength, which it would lose. The German Cabinet appears to be under instructions to avoid stirring up the BSE controversy.

Jochen Borchert, the Agriculture Minister, has refused to give interviews on BSE. Only Horst Seehofer, the Health Minister, seems to have a relatively free hand. In an interview yesterday he emphasised that German consumers had to be given rock-solid safety guarantees before the export ban could be lifted.

Bar reform plan may be illegal

Bar leaders may be forced to back down on plans to lengthen the time it takes students to qualify as barristers after being told such a move would be unlawful.

The Bar Council has obtained a legal opinion from Michael Beloff, QC, who says the plans to make new entrants do six months' training in chambers before they can call themselves barristers could cause indirect discrimination.

The plans, to be debated by the Bar Council on June 6, might also be contrary to British competition policy, his opinion says.

Mother testifies

The mother of a man accused of murdering a schoolgirl after a pantomime told the High Court in Glasgow yesterday that she found her son's blood-spattered jeans in the washing machine the next day. Nettie McGuire, 66, gave evidence against her son, Gavin, 37, who denies murdering Miss Aitken, 16.

Scouts' truce

A judge at Peterborough County Court granted a temporary injunction against the leader of a breakaway group of Sea Scouts, awarded £1,500 costs against him and banned the group from his rival's hut at St Ives, Cambridgeshire, except for three meetings a week. A full hearing will be held later.

Roller kills man

An Oxford University groundsman died after he was crushed under a motorised roller while preparing a cricket pitch at the Christ Church sports ground. Maurice Honey, 55, was taken to hospital but died soon afterwards. Police said that his daughter witnessed the accident.

Tenneh released

Tenneh Cole, the five-year-old orphan brought to Britain for a life-saving operation to remove a bullet from behind her eye, was released yesterday from the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Tenneh, who has lost the sight in one eye, is due to return to her home in Sierra Leone today.

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Unionists fear new party may hijack their traditional votes

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

A NEW Unionist party which is campaigning on a firmly anti-sectarian ticket is threatening to eat into the traditional support of the Ulster Unionists in tomorrow's election.

The United Kingdom Unionist Party, which was launched by Bob McCartney, the independent MP for North Down, is running such an impressive campaign that the Ulster Unionists have directed their fire against it.

David Trimble, who is facing his first electoral test since becoming Ulster Unionist leader last September, said on Monday that the Union could be damaged if voters supported small parties such as the UK Unionists. Amid Ulster Unionist fears that Mr McCartney could win some of its traditional middle-class support, Mr Trimble said that a "sundering" of the Unionist



Conor Cruise O'Brien: long political journey

vote would weaken Unionists at the forthcoming all-party talks.

Mr McCartney dismisses his critics as "rank amateurs" and believes that his formidable list of candidates, which includes Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, the former Irish politician, overshadows his opponents. Mr McCartney, 60, who won North Down in a by-

election last year, hopes to win widespread Unionist support, ranging from the Democratic Unionists to the Alliance Party, with his "twin message".

He says he is tough on Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom, which he will refuse to negotiate at all-party talks, but he is liberal in rejecting any form of Protestant sectarianism.

Mr McCartney, who is one of Northern Ireland's leading QCs, said: "Middle-class professionals who have no truck with the tub-thumping of traditional Ulster parties now have a pluralist party they can identify with. They can also feel socially comfortable with our party which combines intelligent analysis with the capacity to negotiate the best deal for the Union."

The MP who was expelled from the Ulster Unionists in 1987 when he broke the party's election pact with the sitting independent MP in North Down, hopes to win up to nine

seats on Thursday. He is fielding 40 candidates in 16 of the 18 constituencies and will use Dr O'Brien as one of his key advisers at the talks, if he is elected.

Dr O'Brien, who was a member of the Irish government delegation at the last big talks on Northern Ireland at Sunningdale in 1973, says his decision to stand on Thursday marks the culmination of a long political journey from Irish nationalist politics to staunch defender of the Union. Although he is 78, Dr O'Brien has been out on the stump with Mr McCartney every day this week to oppose the "crazy project" of the nationalist peace process.

He said: "This process has nothing to do with peace in the ordinary sense of the term. Sinn Féin's concept of peace is the state of affairs which will ensue after the elimination of Northern Ireland."

Leading article, page 19

Talks fail to reach accord

THE British and Irish governments failed again yesterday to agree on the issue of arms decommissioning in more than two hours of talks (Audrey Magee writes).

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, the Irish Deputy Prime Minister, met in Dublin yesterday to discuss the matter before the all-party talks due to begin on June 10, and will try again next Tuesday to resolve differences.

Mr Spring described yesterday's meeting as "satisfactory", and said a wide range of issues was discussed including the report on decommissioning drawn up by the former US Senator George Mitchell. Sir Patrick said yesterday's meeting was "useful and helpful", but a lot of work remained to be completed.

He said the outlook was "not pessimistic", and promptly ruled out any suggestion that the all-party talks might be postponed.

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Shotgun raiders kill German on visit to twin town

By JOANNA BALE

A GERMAN tourist on a winning visit to Bedford was shot dead in front of her husband during a bungled hotel robbery early yesterday as they sat drinking with friends.

Johanna Czardebom, 56, who arrived in England on Thursday for the trip with 150 of her countrymen, had been due to return home tomorrow. The dead woman's husband was expected to fly home last night. Detective Superintendent Dick Read said yesterday: "Her Czardebom is distraught. They came to Bedford on a pleasure trip and their lives have been destroyed. It has obviously affected the whole party."

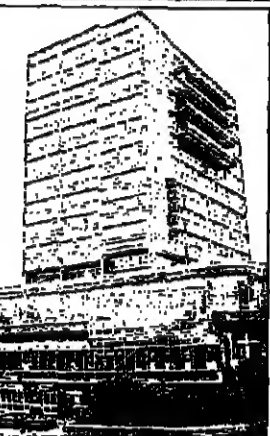
Frau Czardebom had been sitting in the bar of the County Hotel in Bedford with her husband Fritz and a group of friends when two men with sawn-off shotguns burst into the nearby reception.

While one threatened the assistant manager, Daniel Stewart, the other leapt over the counter and tried to open the safe. When Mr Stewart refused to help, he leapt back over the counter and ran towards the bar where he bumped into Herman Otto, one of the party of Germans who were visiting from Bedford's twin town of Bamberg in Bavaria.

Detective Superintendent Read said: "One of the four party members in the gun was shot in the stomach with the shotgun. The gun went off shortly afterwards and the German woman suffered fatal head wounds. The two men then fled empty-handed."

Detectives used interpreters to interview the tourists who were part of a larger group of 50 staying at the hotel for the town's River Festival last weekend.

Herr Otto, who is in his fifties, said: "I was having beer and coffee with my wife and friends in the bar. It was just after midnight and I got up to go to bed because we were planning to visit Windsor and London in the morning. As I was going to the lift a masked



Johanna Czardebom: shot at County Hotel

man ran up and showed the barrel right into my stomach. Then there was a loud bang and Johanna was completely covered in blood. She had been sitting just a few yards away with her husband."

Police said yesterday that Frau Czardebom, who has a 33-year-old daughter and three grandchildren, was shot at "very close range" in the head and died almost immediately. They appealed for witnesses who may have seen the men running from the hotel. The two were wearing balaclavas and dark clothing. The man whose gun went off is around 6ft tall, of average build and athletic build and in his late twenties to early thirties. The other was 5ft 7in tall and in his early twenties.

The Czardeboms travelled to Bedford from Bamberg with a group that included councillors, traders, a band and

dancers. They had been to several civic receptions and the highlight of their visit was the River Festival, which attracted around 250,000 visitors over the weekend. On Bank Holiday Monday the Czardeboms travelled to York and returned to the County Hotel for dinner.

Laurie Gould, chief executive of Bedford Borough Council, had dined at the hotel with councillors from Bamberg. He said: "I left the hotel shortly after midnight and was called back at 2am. Everyone was in a state of shock. Herbert Lauer, Bamberg's mayor, was exercising a calming influence despite the fact that he was in shock himself and absolutely perplexed that something like this could have happened."

"Everyone in the council is aghast. Our sympathies are with the family and the people who came to Bedford for what should have been a fruitful and enjoyable visit."

Another Bedford councillor, Dave Lewis, said: "I am shocked and disgusted. These people were out enjoying themselves. It brings home the appalling state of the society we live in. It is sickening."

Links were forged between Bedford and Bamberg in 1972 with a series of school exchanges and the two towns signed an official twinning charter five years later. A civic group from Bedford last visited Germany in October on an annual visit led by the mayor.

A council spokeswoman said: "There are trips going out to Bamberg throughout the year from local schools, musical groups and even a group of dentists. The Bedford Bamberg Association also organises trips for individuals who are interested in going."

Bedford decided to twin with Bamberg in 1985 after a visit there by an evening class of adult German language students, who were captivated by the remarkable architecture and its civic hospitality.

Frau Inga Kuhn, the city information officer, said: "Our inhabitants are very quiet people. We are a place of culture and history and the crime rate is very low."



Jaymee's sister Charlotte drawing comfort from their father David Bowen after the church service yesterday

World sends flowers as Jaymee is buried to a steel drum lullaby

By CAROL MIDDLEY

JAYMEE BOWEN, the 11-year-old girl who lost her battle against leukaemia last week, was buried yesterday with 140 red roses symbolising her "best for life".

Mourners, including many school friends, each threw an individual flower into her grave as steel drums played the hymn *The Lord Is My Shepherd*.

Her father David had asked for the funeral to be a celebration of Jaymee's life rather than a mourning of her death, and her favourite pop songs - *Baby Love* by Diana Ross and *Farewell My Summer Love* by Michael Jackson - were played to the congregation at St John's parish church in Croydon, south London.

The Rev Colin Boswell, the vicar, said that Jaymee had generated courage and hope. "She has been an example to us all, not only to other children but to all of us who are human, an example of what it is to rise above pain, to be creative at times when it seems hopeless."

Jaymee died a week ago from acute myeloid leukaemia, 15 months after being treated from private funds when the NHS said that her case was too hopeless to justify further chemotherapy. The decision by Cambridge Health Authority divided medical experts and resulted in Jaymee becoming nationally known as Child B.

Flowers were sent from around the world and included an arrangement from Michael Jackson, whose card read: "May your courage be an inspiration to us all. Your

spirit shines through." The funeral cortege of 22 limousines drove with police escort from Jaymee's grandparents' home in Thornton Heath, south London, and passed the Mayday Hospital in Croydon where 11 years and 10 months ago she was born. The procession was so large that parts of south London came to a standstill.

Jaymee, who had indicated she would prefer to be buried when she was three, when he won custody, was inconsolable. Aubrey Bryan, who played his steel drums at Jaymee's 11th birthday party last year, had written a special piece which he played in church. Sarah Barclay, the BBC Panorama journalist who made a documentary about Jaymee's life and wrote her biography, gave an appreciation. "You said you wanted to be just an ordinary girl, but even if you hadn't been so ill, you could never have been ordinary," she said.

Charlotte, 10, who donated the bone marrow and blood cells that helped to prolong Jaymee's life, and by his girlfriend Susan.

Charlotte sent flowers in the shape of an angel with a card that read: "Jaymee, I love you more each day." Jaymee's mother Alyson Bowen, who separated from Mr Bowen when Jaymee was three, when he won custody, was inconsolable.

Aubrey Bryan, who played his steel drums at Jaymee's 11th birthday party last year, had written a special piece which he played in church. Sarah Barclay, the BBC Panorama journalist who made a documentary about Jaymee's life and wrote her biography, gave an appreciation. "You said you wanted to be just an ordinary girl, but even if you hadn't been so ill, you could never have been ordinary," she said.

Missing French girl 'was victim of assault'

By TIM JONES

DETECTIVES were last night interviewing a French schoolgirl who walked into a London police station four days after disappearing on a visit to a nightclub in Cardiff.

Fanny Paltor, 17, had last been seen accepting a lift in a car occupied by five youths after she had left the nightclub. A search was launched after the girl, known also as Nina, failed to turn up at the local hotel where she was a waitress on a work experience scheme.

Her father Marcel, a headmaster, said yesterday: "Nina spoke to me on the telephone and was obviously upset. She told me she had been attacked. My wife and I are very shocked but relieved that she is alive." Her mother, Marie-Claire, speaking from the family home in Beaulieu-sur-Sonnettes in southwest France, said: "I do not know what happened to her but we hope she will be back home soon."

Staff at the Campanile Hotel in Cardiff said they wept with relief when they heard Fanny was alive and well. Lee Bailey, the manager, said: "As time went on we were all becoming more and more worried about her. I suppose now she will just want to return home and go back to her school in France."

Doctor jailed for attacking driver over right of way

By PAUL WILKINSON

A DOCTOR who attacked a college lecturer in a dispute over the right of way in a narrow street was jailed for two weeks yesterday. Paul Tien, who denied criminal damage, also faces being struck off the medical register.

Dr Tien, 45, a locum in Rochdale, Greater Manchester, was ordered to pay compensation of £485 and costs of £120. He was freed on bail pending appeal against his conviction and sentence.

Nicholas Foster, an English and media studies tutor, told Oldham magistrates that Dr Tien repeatedly kicked his car before wrenching the door open and trying to grab the steering wheel. Mr Foster said he sat in fear in his car and told Dr Tien: "It's road rage, you must be suffering from road rage."

The incident happened last January when Mr Foster was about to turn into a car park at Oldham Sixth Form College. Dr Tien, who worked in the Rochdale Infirmary casualty unit, was driving the other way in his Volvo but could not pass because a car was double-parked on his side.

Mary Marsland, for the prosecution, said: "Mr Foster believed it was up to Dr Tien to give way. The two cars ended up nose to nose and the Volvo didn't move. Then the

driver seemed to calmly step out of his car and walk over to Mr Foster. As he got nearer he clenched his fist and began to lash out at the bonnet and front wing of Mr Foster's car.

"Mr Foster became increasingly afraid and the driver opened the door of Mr Foster's car and pulled at the steering wheel. His eyes were darting about and he was shouting. He then slammed the door and kicked it very hard."

Graham Bailey, for the defence, said: "Road rage may be considered a proper description of this incident. It arose out of innocuous circumstances and clearly should never have taken place. At worst it was a one-off and wholly out of character."



Tien: faces being struck off medical register

Spare twins, mother begged school gang

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN left close to death by a gang of schoolboys said yesterday that she pleaded with them not to hurt her two-year-old twin daughters.

Marcia Onwuna, 22, had taken Kelsey and Kaleigh for a walk in Croxeth country park, Merseyside. Yesterday, she took frequent deep breaths from an oxygen supply beside her bed in Walton Hospital, Liverpool, as she said: "I had just taken the girls to see the ducks in the pond when I saw six boys in school uniform. They shouted very rude and nasty things."

"They looked very young so I shouted back to them that I was old enough to be their mother. All I can remember is that they came from behind and then they hit me over my head and grabbed me by the hair. I shouted 'Hit me, hit me, don't hurt my babies'. They were all punching and kicking me on the floor. I could feel pains everywhere. I really did think I was going to die."

Gary Walsh, 33, an off-duty fireman who found Miss Onwuna, said earlier that he discovered the girls were holding pills they had taken from their mother's bag. "She was just lying on the ground, saying 'Don't hit me, don't hit me'. My wife took care of the twins while I put Marcia in the recovery position."



Meet Alistair.

Alistair saved himself £10 a month by changing to Midland home insurance.

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DIRECT

New cable channel will feed the spirit

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CHAT SHOWS, religious rock and an "agony uncle" will be battling for television viewers' souls when Britain's first Christian cable channel opens in October. Nudity, sex, violence and bad language will not be appearing.

Ark2 is aimed at the millions of people in Britain who have spiritual leanings but do not go to church - the 71 per cent of the population who feel a spiritual void in their lives and the even greater number who pray regularly but are not sure who or what they are praying to.

The channel, dreamt up by a group of Christian professional broadcasters and

funded by Christian businessmen, will not be "goody-goody TV" but "good TV", a spokesman said. It will reach out to all age groups, with programmes ranging from an exploration of the moral issues covered in soap operas to *Godwatch*, an investigation into biblical events, prayer, debate and meditation.

Ark2 has raised £1.8 million towards its start-up costs of £2.5 million and eight cable companies are competing to broadcast the Bristol-based channel, which will run "normal" programming from Monday to Saturday with more heavyweight religious items on Sunday.

Programmes will include a religious rock show and a late-evening phone-in counselling show headed by Steve

Chalke, a Baptist minister. The MPs David Alton, Paul Boateng and John Taylor will examine political events from a moral perspective. Libby Purves of *The Times* will host a weekly debate while an arts programme will feature international figures.

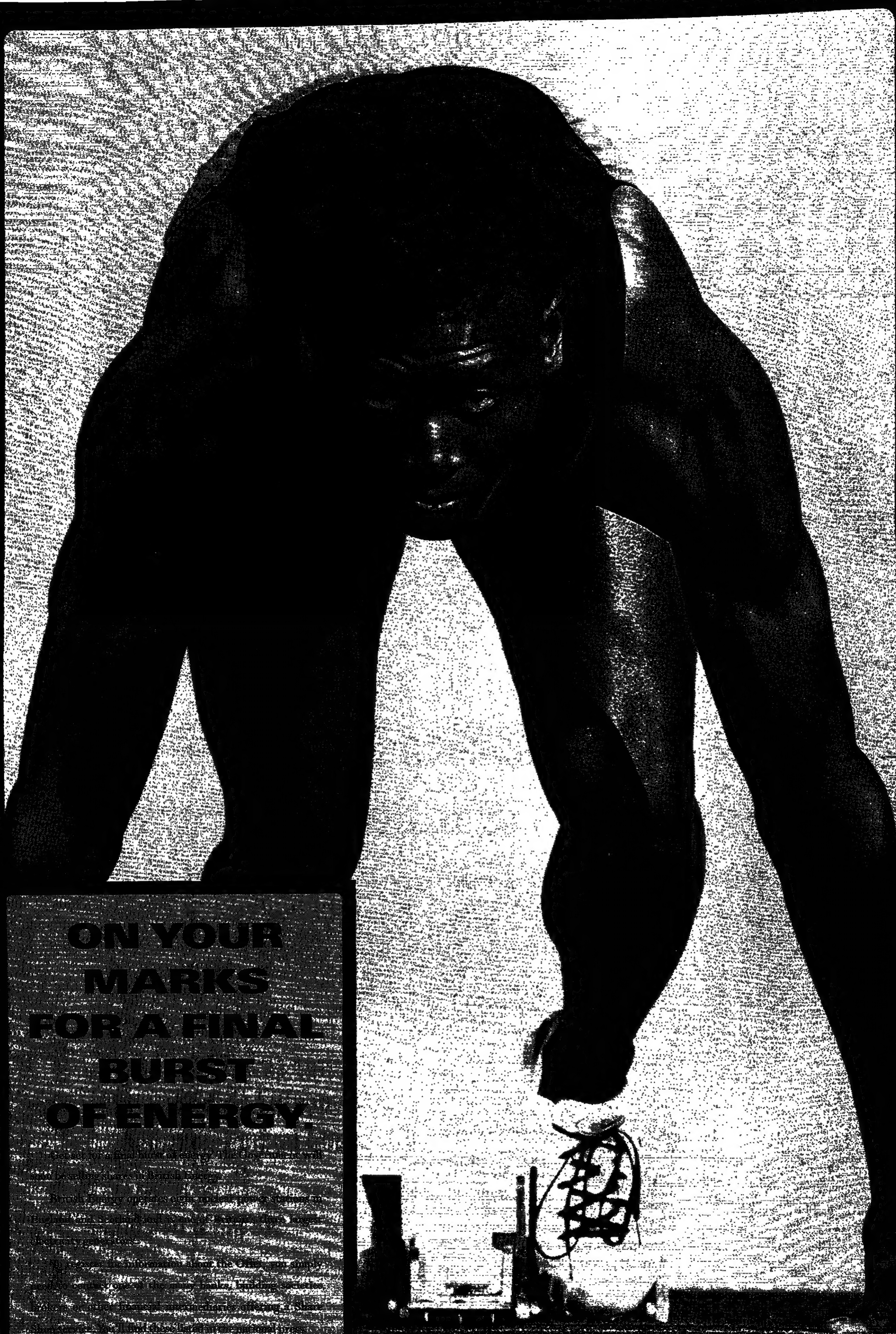
Programme-makers will include Carlton and the BBC as well as Christian production houses and producers in the United States and Australia.

Ross Coad, the chief executive, said: "People are being fed negative images and terrible things are happening - head teachers can be stabbed to death outside their school. We are confident that Ark2 can help to turn things around by feeding the human spirit."

Like you, Alistair saw an advert in the paper claiming that Midland could lower his household insurance. Alistair's got some quite expensive furniture and his insurance premiums had been fairly hefty, so he felt that any saving would be welcome. He rang us on 0800 277 377, was given a free quotation, double-checked the policy document (which is available on request) and was pleasantly surprised. Maybe you would be, too.



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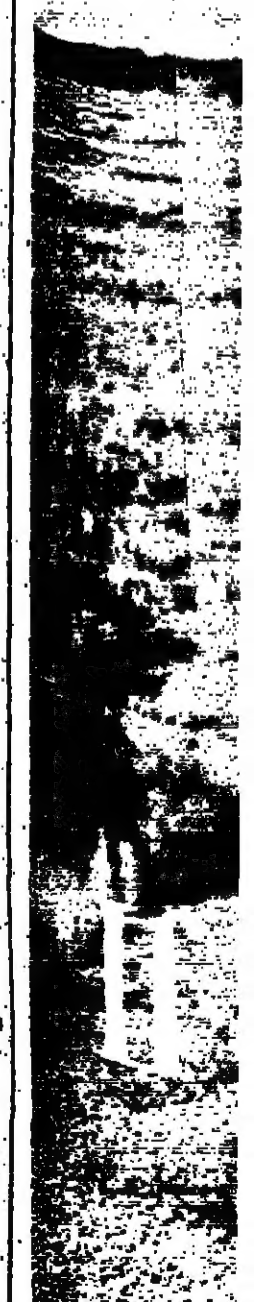
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Loyal charities speak up for beleaguered Duchess

BY ALAN HAMILTON

IN THE week in which her divorce becomes absolute and she relinquishes the title Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of York's small fistful of charities have rallied round to offer her their support.

Reports that the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) were dropping the Duchess, who has been their president for three years, were strongly denied yesterday by the charity and by the Duchess's own staff. The Duchess's three-year term as president comes to an end in September and she is involved in talks with the association on her future role.

The Duchess's office said yesterday that it was at her own request that she should not serve a further term as president, but that she wished to continue working for the charity in a different role, which had not yet been agreed. The charity said that the Duchess had been "of tremendous support", and had helped to raise £200,000 in the past four years.

"The Duchess has expressed her desire and commitment to continue helping to promote awareness of motor neurone disease. The association welcomes this and is looking forward to continuing to work with the Duchess in the future," a spokeswoman said.

Other charities with which the Duchess is associated were anxious to offer her support yesterday, as she stood on the threshold of an increasingly uncertain future. Unlike other

royals, who hold huge portfolios of charity patronage, the Duchess is figurehead of only four other significant charities in Britain and one in the US.

Caroline Winterbottom, spokeswoman for Tommy's, the appeal for research into premature and stillborn births at St Thomas's Hospital in London, of which the Duchess is patron, said yesterday: "We are very happy with the work she has done for us; she will continue as before."

Staff at the Teenage Cancer Trust, which raises money to fund special units in hospitals, said their royal patron had always supported them and they hoped she would continue to do so.

Deborah Oiley, manager of Children in Crisis, a charity founded by the Duchess her-

self in 1993 to help disadvantaged children, mainly in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, said that the Duchess would continue as chairwoman. "We are very happy that she should continue with us. Without her we could not have raised £4.6 million in three years to help children in Bosnia, Croatia, Poland, Albania and Belarus. She is able to open doors for us that others cannot."

Ms Oiley agreed that the Duchess had suffered a great deal of bad personal publicity since separating from the Duke of York, but she said: "The overall effect on her charity work has been very positive, despite adverse personal coverage in the media."

Despite the loyalty of her charity managers, the Duchess's problems will not go

away easily. Faced with reported debts of £3 million, she has been told by the Queen that, as she ran up those debts herself, she will not be bailed out from the private royal coffers.

Her hopes of paying off some of her debts through marketing of her *Budgie the Helicopter* books suffered a blow earlier this month when it was reported that ITV had cancelled plans to make a fourth television series based on the books, for which the Duchess has already been accused of plagiarism.

The financial settlement to which she will be entitled when her divorce is finalised tomorrow will do little to ease her predicament. The deal is believed to offer her a total of £2 million, but the bulk will be put in trust for her daughters Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie. The Duchess is further bound by a clause which prevents her writing a "kiss and tell" account of her ten-year association with the Royal Family, although she is said to be considering writing a book on how to be a single mother.

A spokeswoman for the Charities Aid Foundation, which advises charities on how to maximise resources, said: "There is no decline in the importance of the Royal Family as patrons and presidents. The relationship is firmly entrenched and it continues to be a valuable one. Royal patronage lends charities a great deal of kudos."

Kensington Palace intruder bound over

AN INTRUDER who knocked on doors in the museum section of Kensington Palace in the middle of the night, demanding to see the Princess of Wales, was bound over yesterday to keep the peace.

The Princess was asleep in her apartments and unaware of the incident early last Monday when police arrested Liam Whitney, 36, who was carrying a book about the Princess when he climbed over a fence into Kensington Gardens, a public park closed

at night, and scaled another fence into the Orangery, also open to the public during the day. He was arrested after knocking on the doors of buildings that do not come within the secure area patrolled by police.

Whitney, who lives at a South Kensington hotel, admitted a breach of The Royal and Other Parks and Gardens Regulations, 1977. He told police that he wanted to see the Princess but did not elaborate in court yesterday.

Royal patronage covers full spectrum of worthy causes

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND MICHAEL HORNSWELL

THE names of members of the Royal Family appear on letterheads across the spectrum of charities. The Queen is meticulous in not favouring one over the other but other members tend to take particular interest in their favourite cause. The Queen: patron or president of more than 750 charities, from Barnardo's to the RSPCA and the RNLI. She takes no significant

active part in any. There is no more desirable name on a charity letterhead.

The Duke of Edinburgh: even more charity-endowed than the Queen, his name is attached to more than 800 organisations, from Lord's Taverners to Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), British Heart Foundation to the Variety Club. Outward Bound to Muscular Dystrophy. Active, engaged and visible president of the WWF. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother:

indefatigable at 95, with 351 patronages still under her belt from British Red Cross to the Guide Association, National Trust to the Tidy Britain Group. Especially close to her heart is patronage of the Injured Jockeys' Fund. Princess Royal: queen of the charity workers who works like a Trojan as president of the Save the Children Fund, helping to raise its profile and income into one of the leading global players in Third World aid. Also active in Riding for the

Disabled and the Butler Trust, which makes awards for good work among prison officers. Her title adorns a further 249 charity letterheads.

Prince of Wales: king of the charities, the Prince lends his name to 507 organisations but directs most of his energy at his own invention, the Prince's Trust, an umbrella organisation founded on a shoestring in 1976 which now has a £30 million annual turnover and is one of the most effective

youth charities in Britain. Princess of Wales: when she "withdrew from public life" she did not go so far as to resign her charity patronages. Still with 126 in her portfolio, led by Great Ormond Street hospital, Centrepont Soho, Relate (formerly the Marriage Guidance Council), National Aids Trust and organisations for meningitis, lung disease, leprosy and Parkinson's. Princess Margaret: a second-divi-

sion player these days with only 87 charities on her books. Usually seen at parades of the Guide Association, also lends her name to the Royal Ballet, St John Ambulance and NSPCC. Duchess of York: only six significant charities - Chemical Dependency Centre, the Tommy's campaign for premature baby research at St Thomas's Hospital, London; Teenage Cancer Trust; Motor Neurone Disease Association and Children in Crisis, founded by the duchess in 1993.

Fire crews vote to join strike plan

Firefighters in Derbyshire yesterday became the second brigade in a week to vote for a series of nine-hour strikes. They are expected to begin joint action on June 10 with Essex firefighters, who decided on Thursday to begin identical strikes against proposed cuts in fire cover.

Derbyshire County Council has cut its firefighting budget by £1.3 million but says the brigade would still meet minimum standards for cover.

Cyclist shot

A boy aged 15 was recovering in hospital in Sheffield after teenagers shot him while he was cycling through woods. Police said Ricky Chapman was lucky not to have lost his left eye after being hit in the temple.

Driver attacked

A woman who works for a car-hire firm was attacked by three men as they stole the Mercedes she was driving in West Bromwich, West Midlands. They pushed her into a hedge, kicked her in the stomach and punched her.

Croc shock

The skull, flesh and teeth of a crocodile found in a brook in Finchley, north London, are being examined by experts at London Zoo. They were found by an off-duty RSPCA inspector who was out walking his dog.

Buttonholed

A woman who runs an east London stall was ordered by Marlborough Street Court to pay £1,300 to the Oxford Street men's outfitter Cecil Gee. She damaged seven designer suits by snipping off 11 buttons to put on second-hand clothes.

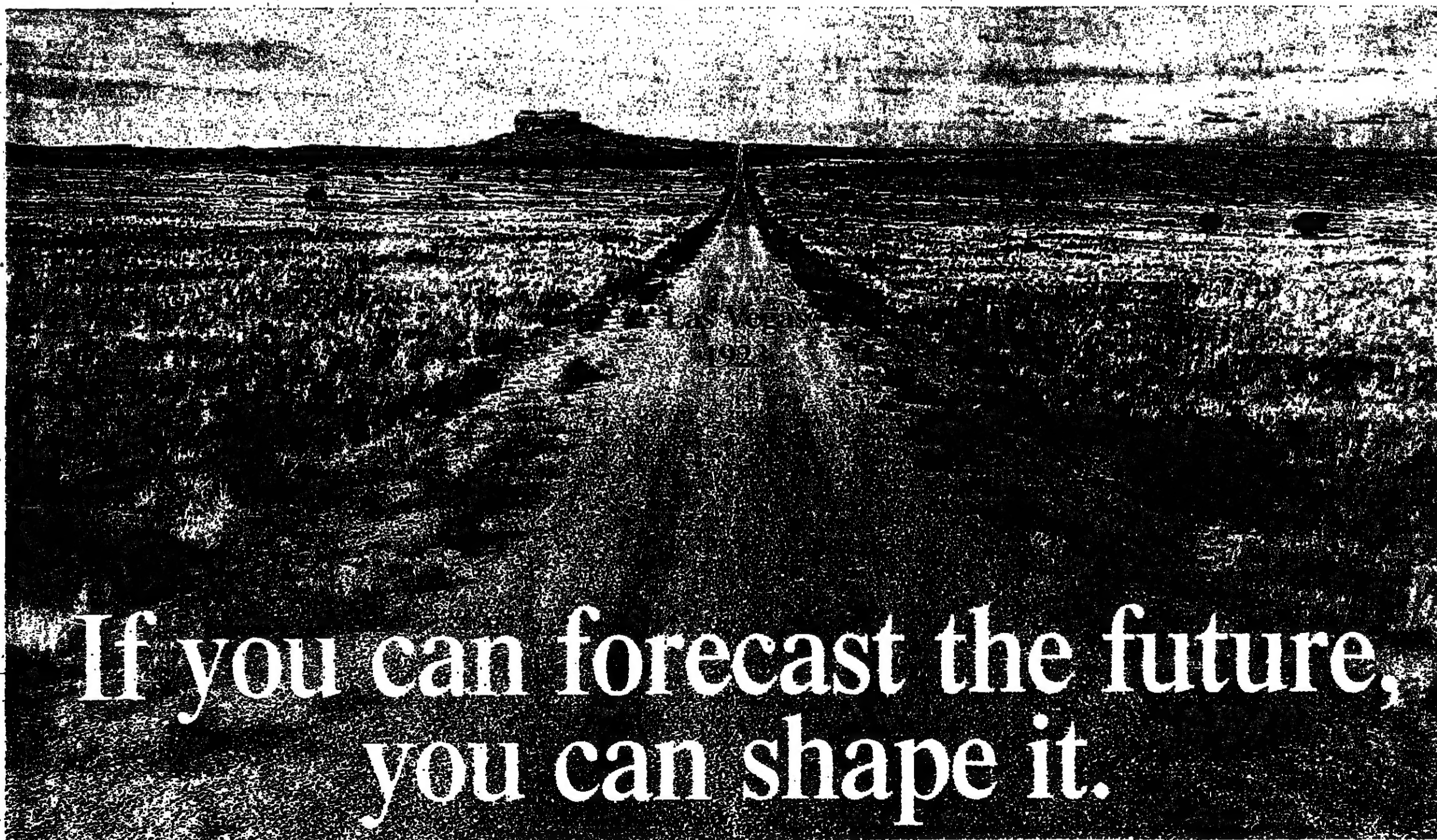
Cliff escape

A woman who fell 150ft down a cliff while out with friends in Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear, escaped with just a broken finger and bruises. Nora Garity, 47, of North Shields, was rescued by firemen who used ropes to reach her.



The Duchess after receiving a standing ovation at the MNDA conference in 1992

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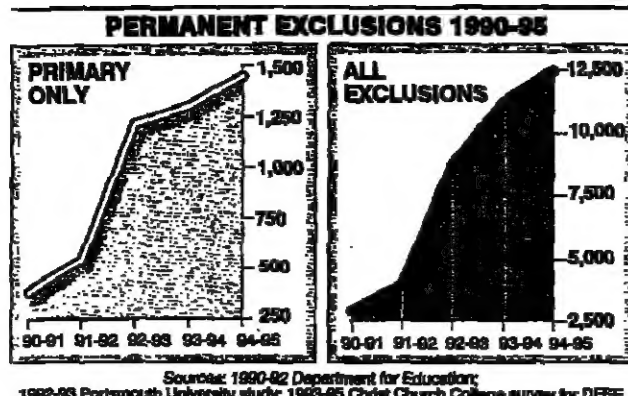
Heads seek right to expel pupils with violent parents

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOLS should be allowed to expel the children of parents who attack staff, head teachers' leaders said yesterday.

A primary school head who was injured in an incident with an irate mother claimed yesterday that such violence was becoming a serious problem. Liz Paver, head of Intake First School, in Doncaster, lost a tooth when the mother of a five-year-old girl who had been hurt in a playground accident drove off as she was leaning through her car window. "She left taking me with her and I lost a front tooth and injured my knee," she said.

Exclusions from primary and secondary schools are at record levels. But leaders of the National Association of Head Teachers said the children of violent parents should be added to the figures if an incident destroyed the relationship between school and family. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said he recognised that such a move would be seen as visiting



the sins of the parent on the child, but added: "It may be in the child's interests to get a fresh start in another school, where a better relationship can be established."

Mr Hart said the union would support any member who excluded a pupil after such an assault by a parent. Current legal advice is that an independent appeals panel would be likely to overturn an exclusion in such circumstances, but the union is lobbying ministers to issue fresh guidance. Margaret Morrissey, the spokeswoman for the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associ-

ations, said she could not accept punishing children for their parents' action. "I sympathise with teachers for what they have to put up with, but this is not the right way of going about it."

In Mrs Paver's case, which took place a month ago, the child is still in school following an apology from the family. The father is a school governor and the family had always been supportive of the school.

The incident happened the day after the girl had been knocked over by an older boy in what Mrs Paver described as "playground rough and tumble". The girl's mother

came into school and scolded the boy and was still agitated when she left the premises, having been asked to leave the matter to the staff.

Mrs Paver followed because she felt the mother was in no state to drive and was trying to calm her down when she drove off suddenly. "It looks as if road rage and abuse in school have come together in this particular incident," she said. The police were informed, but were expected to limit any action to a caution in view of the mother's clean record.

Mrs Paver, a head for 20 years, will become President of the union for 1997-98. She said: "In the past five years I have had many more colleagues who have felt threatened by parents who, rather than consult on a way forward, have taken the law into their own hands. They see their child's needs above all the other members of the class, lose control and often resort to violence."

The union said there were 27 serious assaults on members in the past year — nine by pupils, 16 by parents and two by members of the public.



Liz Paver, a head teacher who lost a tooth after an altercation with a parent

Dyslexia assessed three years after boy's exclusion

By LIN JENKINS

WHEN Marion Ward was told her six-year-old son Christopher was being expelled from primary school she feared his education would be doomed.

In the following three years the boy was expelled from a further three schools, assessed at a school for those with behavioural difficulties, sent at public expense to a private school and taught at home. Dr Ward had to convince education officials that Christopher was dyslexic and that his tantrums were manageable.

Most of the increasing numbers of pupils sent home from primary school have nowhere to go. They wait an average of 14 weeks before an alternative school is found or home tuition arranged. The latter option rarely gives children more than five hours of schooling a week, often in unsatisfactory surroundings of an overcrowded home with the distractions of pre-school children, babies, parents and their friends.

Dr Ward, a college lecturer, and her husband, Eric, a clinical psychologist, who adopted Christopher when he was five and in care, had an independent assessment, which found him of above

average intelligence, but in December 1991 one school called in social services.

"We were shocked," said Dr Ward, who resorted to teaching her son at home. "They said we were middle class and pushy."

Christopher was eventually assessed as dyslexic. He settled into a primary school and is now at secondary school. He has a laptop computer for his written work and four hours a week with an individual tutor.

Carl Parsons, of Christ Church College, Canterbury, author of a report on excluded children, found some children went without any education for up to a year. In other cases local authorities regarded two hours a week as their legal requirement towards primary age children.

The Education Act 1993 requires education authorities to provide "suitable full-time or part-time education" for those excluded. It defines suitable as "efficient".

Mr Parsons said: "That does not mean effective but means efficient in terms of the allocation of funds and most LEAs consider two hours a week to be the legal minimum, although some do provide three or five."

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Fears over chemicals in milk may be misplaced

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

WORRIED mothers who abandon bottle-feeding because of the discovery in baby milk of traces of chemicals which might affect the fertility of boys may be doing too much. Studies have shown that breast milk contains traces of chemicals that may be at least as dangerous as those found in infant formulae — if either presents a risk at all, which many toxicologists question.

The chemicals are different — phthalates in formula milk, and dioxins in breast milk — but both belong to the group of chemicals suspected of mimicking the behaviour of natural hormones. Exposure to them in the womb or in the first few weeks of life may affect the sexual development of children, especially boys.

Scandinavian scientists have claimed that one in ten women have such high levels of dioxin in their bodies that they should breast-feed for only a few weeks at most. But the Department of Health, supported by advice from the Committee on the Toxicology

Manufacturers of baby milk yesterday insisted their products were safe as family doctors and advice groups dealt with a flood of calls from very angry and very worried women who are absolutely beside themselves. We can't really cope with the problem as we have no information to give them. But a spokesman for Cow & Gate, one of the four major producers, said: "The formulas are perfectly safe and there's no need for concern." SMA, another leading manufacturer, said: "All the brands tested were well within the Government's permitted daily tolerance limits and are a hundred-fold below which there might be a safety question."

of chemicals, argues that they present no hazard.

The department says breast is still best, in spite of the dioxins. The chemicals are produced by incinerating household waste and are in all our bodies, as are other long-lived chemicals, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The fear that these chemicals may have subtle and previously unsuspected effects has turned toxicology on its head. As poisons, they are present in food at levels far below those which would cause damage. But as disrupters of the hormone system in the womb, or the first few months of life, they could do

damage at much lower levels. The committee's advice is that although breast-fed babies can receive big doses of dioxins — up to ten times the tolerable daily intake — in the early months of life, this is irrelevant over a whole lifetime.

But, at a recent meeting at Lancaster University, Dr Michael DeVito of the US Environmental Protection Agency said this approach ignored the "window of sensitivity" to the hormone-disrupters, according to the newsletter of Environmental Data Services. Whether such a window exists is disputed. Animal experiments and studies of fish in contaminated rivers suggest

that some chemicals can affect sexual development. But the potential culprits are many — probably thousands. To focus only on phthalates and only on baby formulae misses the point. For example, tinned vegetables contain bisphenol-A, another potential disrupter. There are traces in the environment of the breakdown products of DDT and PCBs, both prime suspects. The fact that phthalates may be present in gravy brownings or in coffee whitener is a side-issue because they are not eaten by infants.

The scientists at the Ministry of Agriculture who measured the phthalates in baby formulae investigated adult diets and found that phthalate intake averages 0.8 milligrams a day. But they believe the contamination arose when the food samples were stored before analysis and that fresh food has lower levels — 60 times lower than those found to have hormone effects in rats. This suggests that in adults the safety margin is wide enough.

Nigella Lawson, page 17
Letters, page 19



Eighteen-month-old Joe Guerrier is recovering at Guy's Hospital, London, after becoming one of the youngest patients to be given a kidney from a live donor — in this case his mother, Lorraine, 33

Stay by the pool to be on safe side in Majorca



MEDICAL BRIEFING

THE four, or possibly five, cases of meningitis in Majorca have alarmed holidaymakers, but doctors who specialise in travel medicine feel it is important that parents planning a family holiday there should not overreact.

There are three types of bacterial meningococcal meningitis: A, B, and C. All three can cause meningococcal septicaemia. As yet the strain of the organism responsible for the outbreak in the Balearic Islands has not been identified. In Britain the B strain predominates, as it does in many other parts of Europe, the Caribbean and southern America, whereas in Africa the A and C strains are more common.

Meningococcal infection, whether it is meningitis or the even more dread meningococcal septicaemia, is unpredictable. In Britain, the meningococcal bacterium is predominantly a menace during the cold, wet winter months, but worldwide it is in the hot climate of sub-Saharan Africa that the incidence of meningitis is highest and the infection most deadly.

Meningococcal meningitis is prevalent in two age groups, under-five and late adolescence. The latter peak is possibly the result of young people starting to socialise at discos, bars and parties. The close contact involved in teenage social life may be the factor that encourages the easy spread of bacteria in small droplets of spit sprayed by coughs, sneezes, nose-blowing and kissing.

Meningitis can occur at any age. Recently, a Norfolk dentist's wife in late middle age

enjoyed a happy family breakfast, apparently healthy other than for a slight headache, and was dead from the disease within 24 hours.

In the present state of medical knowledge, early diagnosis gives the best chance of survival and this, together with efficient intensive care, will reduce the death rate. However, if the disease is to be beaten, doctors must develop vaccines. Another approach is to solve the riddle of why, when one in ten people are carriers of the meningococcal, only occasionally does disease result.

Given that the incubation period of a meningococcal infection is two to ten days, travellers to Majorca from Britain and Germany probably had the bacteria in their throats when they arrived. If the factor that triggered the change from harmless commensure to savage pathogen could be discovered, the need for a vaccine would not be quite so urgent.

Should parents take their children to Majorca? Dr Peter Barrett, medical adviser to the Medical Advisory Service for Travellers, says that although four cases is more than would be expected, they do not represent a major outbreak.

If I had teenage children, I would discourage them from going to discos and recommend they spent more time by the swimming pool and less in a crowded bar. Fortunately, meningococcal infections cannot be spread by swimming pool water.

DR THOMAS
STUTTFORD

Tourists blamed for meningitis outbreak

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

MAJORCA'S tourism director insisted yesterday that the recent cases of meningitis among tourists on the island were "no more than an unfortunate coincidence". "British tourists should not worry," said Pedro Pasqual. "Majorca is just as safe as Britain."

Mr Pasqual said that meningococcal septicaemia, which led to the deaths of two children, was not common on the island and had been contracted before they left home. Majorca has been hit by a 15 per cent slump in package holiday bookings this year and the health scare,

however unjustified, will have done little to boost confidence. Four of the reported cases had booked through Air Tours, which now has 23,000 clients on the island. Of those, 203 have asked to be moved to a different hotel, and 37 family groups have said they would like to return home early.

Doctors were inundated by tourists bringing children to see them with a range of ailments, none of which has proved to be meningitis. The fifth victim, six-year-old Amy Kerney from Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, is recovering in hospital on the island.



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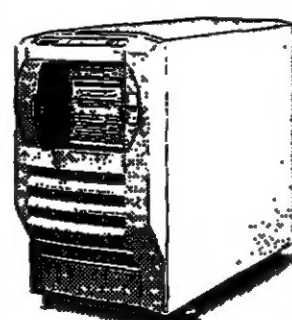
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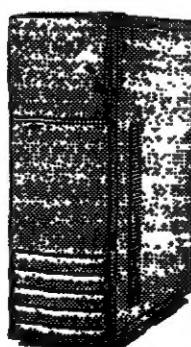
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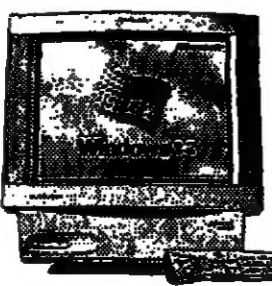
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Shogun: enterprise-level server



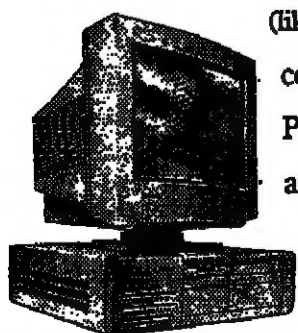
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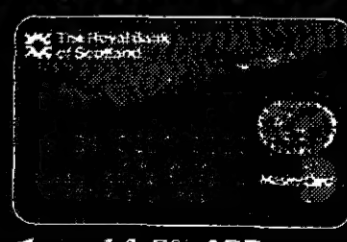


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Rover gambles on including hidden costs in list prices

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

ROVER will scrap separate delivery charges and similar extras on new cars next week. The move, which will add an average of £600 to the upfront cost of its cars but do away with "hidden" extras, will force other carmakers to end a practice that adds hundreds of pounds to list prices.

The company is the first big manufacturer to get rid of the added costs. Rover prices will go up from Monday, when the all-in price takes effect, but the company believes the long-term benefit will outweigh the short-term loss of advertising prices higher than those of its

rivals. Consumer groups have long campaigned against delivery charges, which range from £200 to £500, depending on model and manufacturer. A customer in John o'Groat's buying a Rover Metro would pay the same delivery charge as a buyer who lived yards from the factory in Longbridge, Birmingham, where it is made.

Rover customers used to pay £421 for delivery, about £20 for number plates, from £20 to £30 for a tank of fuel, the first service costs and £140 road tax. Now only road tax will be separate, so buyers will

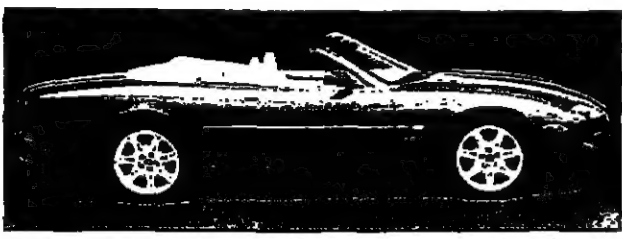
know precisely what the total bill will be when they are quoted a price by their dealer. Alan Pulliam, director of the National Franchised Dealers' Association, which represents 12,000 dealers, said yesterday: "This is a significant move for the motor industry. We have said for a long time that the practice of charging a separate price for delivery was unfair to customers who want to know the cost of the car, not the cost of the car and then the worry of how much it will cost to put it on the road."

"Now we are waiting to see how the rest of the industry will react because other manufacturers will not want to be out of line on this one."

Individual carmakers have been unwilling to consolidate extra charges because it would put up list prices when they are fighting for customers. However, Daewoo, the South Korean manufacturer that came new to the market about a year ago, has attracted thousands of customers by using a clear pricing strategy with no hidden extras.

A Rover spokesman said: "You don't pay a delivery charge when you buy a washing machine, so why do that when you buy a car? You buy a car expecting to be able to put it on the road immediately without any extra costs. We know our prices will be out of line for a while but our competitors will have to follow. Everybody in the car industry has agreed that we should do this but it needed somebody to make the first move — and we decided it should be us."

Rover's move also comes in response to a big increase in sales of used cars to customers dissatisfied with the high prices and hidden charges of new vehicles. Figures later this week from HPI-Equifax will show that finance on used cars taken out in April jumped more than 30 per cent over the same month of last year. That underlines concern that buyers prefer to wait for cars to arrive on the used forecourt, some only months old but still with warranties and thousands of pounds cheaper.



The Jaguar XK8: £50,000 with no manual option

Automatic choice for sporty Jaguar

JAGUAR will announce later this year that its new XK8 sports car will be made only with automatic gearboxes. A manual gearbox will not even be offered as an optional extra (Kevin Eason writes).

The company said yesterday that customers did not want to bother changing gear when a tiny on-board computer could do the job faster and more efficiently. Only 5 per cent of Jaguars are sold with manual gearboxes and the company is moving towards eliminating them from its cars.

Jaguar wants to drop manual gearboxes because they are now more expensive to build, heavier and less efficient. Manuals cost Jaguar about £200 more than an automatic but have to be sold more cheaply to customers who expect manuals as standard equipment.

The decision marks the

move away from the conventional H-shaped gearbox towards automatic boxes controlled by the flick of a switch. Vauxhall is experimenting with a small car with an automatic transmission run by a dashboard-mounted flick switch to make the car go forwards or backwards. The new generation of mini-cars, led by Mercedes next year, is also likely to use a new generation of computer-controlled electronic gearboxes that offer smoother driving and better fuel economy.

Jaguar decided to lead the way with its XK8 even though the car is described as the spiritual successor to the E-type, probably the archetypal muscular British sports car, which was launched in 1961 with a four-speed manual gearbox. The XK8, which will cost £50,000, will be seen at the British Motor Show in October.



Uniforms on parade at Amac, a Manchester army-surplus company awarded one of the franchises to sell surplus equipment for the MoD

Downsized MoD opens second-hand front

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Ministry of Defence is involved in the biggest clear-out of second-hand weapons and equipment since the end of the Cold War, selling everything from howitzers to ceremonial uniforms.

Six years of defence cuts, leading to the closure of bases, depots and MoD buildings, and the scrapping of units including several regimental bands, have produced a huge stock of unwanted equipment. The Army's surplus stock of M109 howitzers has been sold to Austria, ceremonial uniforms are now being bought in large quantities by the Japanese and redundant musical instruments, from trombones to clarinets, are coming up for sale.

Keith Ellender, chief executive of the MoD's Disposal Sales Agency, which is responsible for the second-hand deals, has already helped to mastermind the sale of 11 frigates, seven minesweepers and an assortment of old

aircraft from Canberras to Chipmunks. Six Type 21 Amazon class frigates were sold to Pakistan and four Type 22 Broadsword class frigates to Brazil for a total of £200 million. HMS Andromeda, a Leander class frigate, has also been sold to India for about £10 million, including support services and spares.

The success in selling ageing warships is countered by the failure so far to sell the

Royal Navy's four new conventionally-powered Upholder class submarines, which had hardly entered service before being withdrawn as a result of the Options for Change defence cuts.

The Government decided to keep only nuclear-powered submarines and the four Upholders, which cost £900 million to build, were put on the market. The sale is regarded as so important and sensitive

that negotiations are being handled by a special team from the MoD's Defence Sales Organisation rather than Mr Ellender's second-hand sales agency.

Although the Canadian Government remains interested in buying the four submarines, there is still no sign of a deal. MoD officials are concerned that if Canada goes ahead with the purchase the price will be embarrassingly

low for a class of submarine which is still among the most sophisticated in the world.

There are also difficulties with selling old tanks. The MoD had hoped to sell Chieftains to Pakistan but the Pakistanis decided to buy Russian T72s. Old Chieftains are now mostly sold to the steel industry for recycling.

The MoD's strategy of market-testing the Armed Forces' support services, allowing outside contractors to tender for business in competition with in-house bids, has led to further surpluses of equipment. The tugs used to escort Royal Navy ships in and out of Portsmouth and other naval facilities are to be sold off because an outside firm which recently won the contract has its own vessels.

The biggest change in the MoD's second-hand sales strategy is that private-sector companies have now been brought in to handle the stocks of surplus equipment, such as spare parts, which used to be kept in warehouses around the country.

Dambuster fragment sold

A FRAGMENT of one of the Dambuster bouncing bombs was sold for £1,150 at auction yesterday (Michael Evans writes).

The half-ton fragment was part of a Second World War bomb excavated from the sea wall at Broadstairs, Kent, after it had been dropped in May 1943, three days before the raid that was intended to disrupt industrial production in the Ruhr Valley. The Dambuster aircrews re-

hearsed for the raid along the South Coast.

The original battle order for the raid — a single, yellowing sheet of paper — sold for £6,325, twice the expected price. It was bought by a British public institution after fierce competition from four other bidders, the London auction house Bonhams said. The same buyer bought the bomb fragment.

The battle order lists the names of the 19 aircrew from

617 Squadron who took part in the Dambuster operation. Eleven pencil marks down the side show those who returned safely. The squadron lost 53 men altogether that night during its first operations over Germany.

The collection of memorabilia was put together by Harry Humphries, 80, from Weybourne, Norfolk, who was adjutant of 617 Squadron from 1943 to 1945. He kept the tally of survivors.

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ATOL 4053

Sales of flats trail detached houses in two-tier market

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

DETACHED houses are selling better than cheaper flats, according to Government figures that suggest the emergence of a two-tier market.

While the two categories each make up approximately 20 per cent of Britain's housing stock, Land Registry statistics show that 189,345 detached properties were sold last year, compared with 110,195 flats and maisonettes — respectively 24 per cent and 14 per cent of total sales. Detached houses sold for an average price of £104,719, flats and maisonettes for £59,603.

This is the first time the Land Registry has released such detailed figures, based on all 787,337 property sales in England and Wales last year. Computerisation has allowed the agency to collate the figures into four sectors: detached housing, semi-detached housing, terraced housing and flats.

The average price of a semi-

detached house last year was £60,350, a price which remained static throughout the period. The cheapest place in England and Wales to buy a semi was Lincolnshire, where the average price was £41,526. The most expensive place to buy was Greater London, where the average price was £106,631. The average terraced house cost £51,193 last year. There was a very slight increase in the price in the third quarter, when it rose to £52,461, but it fell back by the end of the year to £50,300. Prices were lowest in Mid Glamorgan — £31,171 — and most expensive in Greater London — £95,563.

The Land Registry figures show that 136,611 homes were sold at between £40,001 and £50,000, the largest number of homes in any price category, and 127,321 homes at between £50,001 and £60,000, the next largest. First-time buyers are getting older. Figures from the

Council of Mortgage Lenders show that at the height of the housing boom in 1988, 33 per cent of first-time buyers were under 25. Now the figure is 25 per cent. Builders have virtually stopped building one-bedroom flats.

Yolande Barnes, head of research at the estate agent Savills, said: "There is less demand for smaller properties now than in the 1980s. First-time buyers are waiting longer before they buy, skipping the first few rungs of the ladder, and buying a small house rather than a flat."

The Land Registry figures suggest, however, that while more expensive houses may be selling more easily, prices remained static last year. Quarterly figures show that the average detached home cost £103,104 at the start of the year and £103,511 at the end. This is the first time that reliable figures covering the whole of the market have

tracked the prices of detached houses.

In the £500,000-plus bracket, only 547 houses were sold last year, from £500,001 to £600,000; 226 houses from £600,001 to £1 million; 30 from £1.5 to £1.75 million; and 39 at over £2 million. Gary Marsh, of the Halifax Building Society, said: "The figures show the dominance of the £30,000 to £68,000-price property

AVERAGE PRICE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY SALES 1995

DETACHED HOUSE

National average price: £104,719

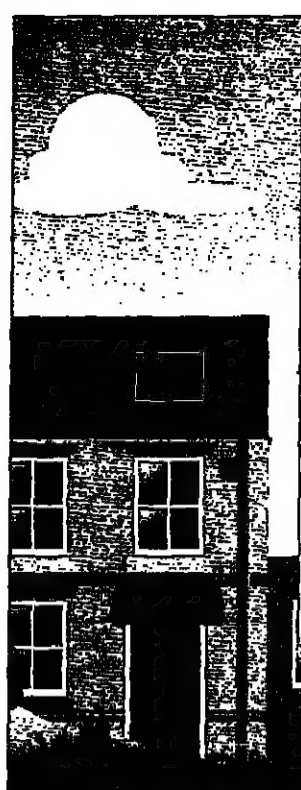
TOP TEN	BOTTOM TEN
Greater London £180,975	Dorset £53,350
Surrey £166,244	Gwynedd £54,577
Hertfordshire £166,135	Lincolnshire £54,819
Buckinghamshire £149,220	Clwyd £50,408
Berkshire £148,883	Powys £50,489
Oxfordshire £134,798	Northfolk £54,482
West Sussex £122,584	West Glamorgan £54,847
Hampshire £120,144	South Yorkshire £55,483
Kent £116,054	Isle of Wight £55,947
Warwickshire £114,848	Mid Glamorgan £56,210

FLAT/MAISONETTE

National average price: £59,603

TOP TEN	BOTTOM TEN
Greater London £80,318	Northamptonshire £29,281
Surrey £62,315	Lincolnshire £30,602
Oxfordshire £58,982	Northumberland £30,712
Berkshire £54,087	Powys £31,083
Dorset £52,153	Mid Glamorgan £31,749
Hertfordshire £51,088	Bedfordshire £31,782
Buckinghamshire £50,142	Northfolk £33,032
West Glamorgan £49,993	Tyne and Wear £33,599
Chester £48,339	Gwent £33,780
Avon £48,752	Shropshire £34,381

Source: Civil Land Registry



Island's wise monks profit from ways of the world

By Robin Young

IF THE canny Brother Cadfael, the fictional medieval monastic sleuth, were alive today he would surely feel at home among the monks of Caldy Island.

The 16 Reformed Cistercian brothers on the island, three miles off the Pembrokeshire coast, won nationwide publicity because of their decision to advertise their monastery on television this year as a tourist attraction.

Now they expect to raise the £300,000 they need this year — and every year — by increased sales of their perfumes, dairy products and chocolates to boatloads of tourists and by mail order. The free publicity in newspapers and broadcasting time that the island community has already received would have cost tens of thousands of pounds had it been booked through their advertising agency.

Their days might start traditionally — at 3.15am with four hours of silence — but the enterprising monks have cunning ways of keeping up to speed on modern business practices. Brother Gildas, the community cook, was manning the monastery telephone yesterday. "We have to support ourselves and a total island population of about 50," he said. "The community has 16 brothers and 15 full-time staff, while other lay people work part-time and have to be paid."

The employees include John Catny, the island manager, Gwyn "Blackie" Bolton, the farm manager, John Large, the dairyman who takes charge of producing the monastery's milk, butter, cream, yoghurt and ice-cream from a pedigree herd of 70 Jersey cows, and Frank Miller, who makes chocolates to an old

recipe. In years gone by Caldy had a shop in Knightsbridge, near Harrods. Brother Gildas remembered the top people's store when researching the modern perfume business recently.

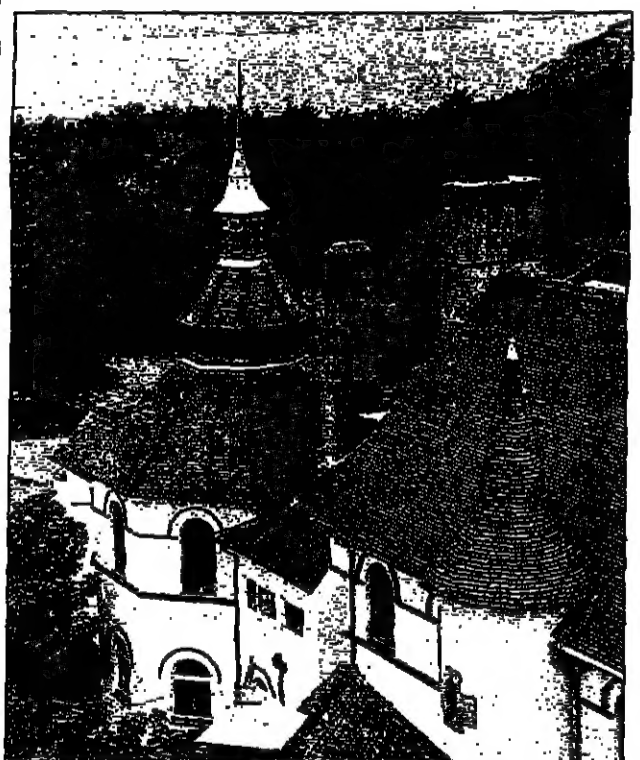
"Someone left a magazine on the island and I saw all the advertising for new scents and fragrances like Calvin Klein's Obsession," he said yesterday. "I wondered what the hell all these things smelt like, so I rang up Harrods, explained who I was and they sent me sample sachets. I now have a good idea how people smell."

He also has a better appreciation of the challenge facing Father Stephen, the monastery's cellarer and perfumier. He uses commercially-produced oils and compounds and follows perfume recipes created for the community by a professional in the 1950s.

"Our fragrances are old-fashioned, classic blends which linger a long while," Brother Gildas said. "The modern perfumes all hit you in the face and do not last long."

Another problem, Brother Gildas sees, is advertising. "Modern perfumes all tend to be advertised with references to sex and sexuality," he said. "We could not compete unless we used a picture of a nude granny on the beach. In fact our packaging is very plain, just featuring island devices."

With a shuttle service of up to ten boats capable of bringing visitors from Tenby at a peak rate of 3,000 a day, each paying a landing fee to the community, Caldy's Reformed Cistercians are likely to achieve their cash target this year despite the tribulations of the Sea Empress oil spill and BSE, which threatened tourism and herd sales.



The monastery has to support 16 brothers and pay the wages of all 50 other Caldy islanders.

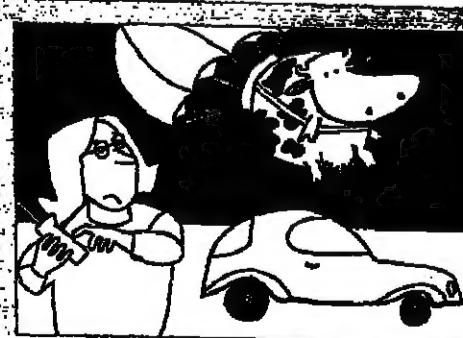
Upstairs, Downstairs 'too costly to repeat'

ONE of Britain's most popular television series will be repeated this summer but less than a fifth of viewers will see it. *Upstairs, Downstairs* will receive a 25th anniversary airing for ten million people in the London Weekend Television area.

Other commercial regions are not showing the sales of life in an Edwardian household to their 45 million viewers because the shows are "too expensive" to repeat. Each of

the first 13 episodes broadcast in 1971 will cost at least £10,000 each to show again because of fees to the actors and scriptwriters.

Liam Hamilton, broadcast director of LWT, which made the series, said: "There is going to be quite a bit of disappointment for fans — the more letters of complaint we get the better. But we haven't given up. We would like to see the whole network celebrate the anniversary."



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صحة من الامم

Jingoistic talk over beef may inflame Euro 96 fans, says Cook

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK yesterday warned ministers against using "the language of xenophobia and jingoism" over the beef crisis to avoid inflaming tensions at the Euro 96 football championship.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary asked the Government to appeal to everyone involved in the crisis to curb their rhetoric in the run-up to the championship, which starts on June 8.

Outlining Labour's strategy towards the European beef ban, Mr Cook announced that the party would support the Government's policy of non-cooperation "in the national interest".

But he said that the Labour Party and British industry should be consulted about any measures that would penalise Britain or Third World countries.

Labour would support selective measures that would do more damage to Britain's European partners than to this country, he said.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, immediately rebuffed Mr Cook's overtures by making it known that his officials would bring Labour on any points but ministers would not consult them on what action to take. "The Government's duty is to gov-

ern," sources close to Mr Rifkind said.

Divisions within Labour also surfaced when Neil Kinnock, the European Transport Commissioner, gave warning that the Government's policy of non-cooperation could backfire. "It will illustrate and it will contradict in some respects, the UK interest," the former Labour leader said on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*.

"There are many decisions requiring unanimity with which the UK under the present Government is in sympathy. So there is a degree of cutting off noses to spite faces," he said.

Glenys Kinnock, Labour Euro MP for South Wales East, also stepped into the fray by criticising the Government's decision to veto a statement on human rights abuses in Burma, as part of its non-cooperation policy.

"As a consequence of this petulance, there is no European Union condemnation of the terrible events in Burma," she said. Mrs Kinnock said that more than 1,000 pro-democracy activists in Burma had been arrested during the past few days.

Earlier Mr Cook criticised Gillian Shephard, the Education



Cook would prefer selective measures

and Employment Secretary, who had attacked the choice of *Ode to Joy* from Beethoven's 9th symphony as the BBC's theme tune for Euro 96, because it was written by a German.

"We do not expect from ministers, particularly those who are charged with the conduct of our nation's foreign policy, the language of xenophobia or jingoism," Mr Cook said.

He argued that recent comments about "war cabinets" and "declarations of war" raised temperatures over the beef crisis and lowered the

prospect of a negotiated agreement. "Labour asks the Government to join us in a bipartisan appeal to everyone commenting on the beef crisis to avoid rhetoric that may inflame tensions on the football terraces or incite hostility between the peoples of Europe," he said.

But Mr Cook made clear that Labour had decided to take a populist approach towards the beef ban by signing up to the Government's policy of non-cooperation, albeit on a selective basis.

During the past few days Labour has been accused of sitting on the fence for failing to either condemn or support the Government's strategy.

Tony Blair was noticeably quiet about his party's stance during his visit to Italy last week. But over the weekend there have been several opinion polls showing the extent of public anger against Europe for its refusal to lift the ban on British beef.

Yesterday Robin Cook declared that Labour would back the Government in principle. But he said that the Prime Minister and Mr Rifkind should be prepared to consult with Labour over blocking tactics. He also suggested that the Confederation of British Industry should be consulted

about any blocking measures that could be damaging. "Britain is more likely to succeed in negotiation if we can demonstrate a national resolve in support of our objectives," he said. "If the Government is serious about building a national consensus around its policy of non-cooperation, Labour believes that ministers must show it by their actions."

Mr Cook has written to Mr Rifkind today, asking him to consult the Opposition over its policy of non-cooperation. He also argued that the Government should do minimum damage to British interests while disrupting business in Brussels.

"It cannot be in the British interest to veto measures that open up markets to British firms," Mr Cook says in the letter.

Mr Cook dodged questions about which measures Labour would be prepared to block but he made clear that the party was unhappy about the widespread use of the veto in Brussels yesterday.

Party sources said that Labour did not support Britain's veto to block aid to Third World countries, and had doubts about vetoing proposals to combat fraud in Europe or to promote the single market.



Business as usual for David Hunt at his constituency surgery in Hoylake yesterday

Tory left urged to unite

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

DAVID HUNT, the former Public Service Minister, yesterday urged Tory MPs to unite under a new umbrella grouping on the centre-left of the party and voice their support for John Major.

In what many Tory MPs see as a counterbalance to the growing influence of right-wing Eurosceptics, Conservative Mainstream will co-ordinate the activities of several sections of broadly pro-European MPs.

Although Mr Hunt backed

the Prime Minister's tough stance of non-cooperation with Brussels on the beef crisis, he said Britain gained a great deal from its membership of the European Union. "I don't agree with any proposal that we should pull out of Europe," he told BBC Radio 4's *Today*.

"I want to see people being much more positive about Europe. That means supporting our Prime Minister and our ministers out there in the front line."

The vast majority of Tory MPs could be placed directly in the centre ground and that is where general elections are

won or lost, he said. Conservative Mainstream will help to organise the activities of the left-of-centre Tory Reform Group (of which Mr Hunt is president), the 50-strong Macleod Group of MPs, the Action Centre for Europe, and two dining clubs, the Progress Group and Nick's Diner. It will also provide a home for all so-called "One-Nation Tories".

Funding is expected to come from companies which have traditionally contributed to Tory coffers but are disillusioned with the party's shift to the right.

Constituency pressed to drop candidate over Serb claims

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Conservative leadership is expected to put pressure on a constituency party to drop its parliamentary candidate after reports of his alleged involvement in Serbian money reaching party coffers.

There have also been claims that the candidate, John Kennedy, had links with Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader who since 1995 has been wanted by the international war crimes tribunal.

Mr Kennedy has dismissed the allegations as "fantastic nonsense" and said he had not raised any amount from any Serbian businessman.

With the Government coming under attack for its sources of party funding, Mr Kennedy's position as a candidate for Halesowen and Rowley Regis looks rather precarious.

Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, is meeting Mr Kennedy as soon as he gets back from holiday early next week to discuss the allegations. Before Mr Mawhinney left he ordered an investigation into claims that a Serb businessman linked to Mr Karadzic gave something less than £100,000 to Conservative funds at the height of the war



Kennedy: supported by constituency association

in the former Yugoslavia. "We do not accept funds with conditions attached from foreign governments, anonymous donors and criminal sources," he said.

One of the later donations, about £50,000, was reportedly arranged in December 1994 after Mr Kennedy contacted Jeremy Hanley, the party chairman at the time. The source was reported to be a London-based Serbian businessman. The deal was allegedly discussed over lunch with Mr Hanley, the businessman and Mr Kennedy at Mark's

Club in Mayfair, central London.

So far, the investigation has thrown up more questions than it has answered, but one way that funds could have been transferred is through a local constituency party.

Mr Kennedy, 31, is a target of many at Central Office. A distant kinsman of the exiled Yugoslav royal family, he is a successful businessman and flamboyant character. He has also held meetings with Slobodan Milosevic, the President of Serbia, and Mr Karadzic. But Mr Kennedy stopped all contact with Mr Karadzic after reports reached this country of Bosnian Serb atrocities in the former Yugoslavia.

His constituency party is also sticking by him, which means that unless Central Office can get Mr Kennedy to resign voluntarily, it will be difficult to force him to stand down. But the new constituency's predicted Tory majority is only 105, which means that Mr Kennedy will have to fight extremely hard to hold it.

John Woodall, the constituency association chairman, said yesterday: "John Kennedy enjoys the full support of the whole association. We have no planned meeting to

discuss recent press reports regarding party funding. This is a storm in a teacup which will not in any way slacken our resolve to return Mr Kennedy to Parliament at the next election. We have absolutely no knowledge of any illegal funding coming through our constituency."

In a further embarrassment to Central Office, a report by a left-wing think-tank, published today, will show that John Major has been ditched by more than 100 business giants, costing the Tories at least £1 million a year in donations.

At least 106 firms have deserted since the last election, including Allied Domeq and Legal and General, according to Labour Research.

Labour sets out terms for accepting social directives from Europe

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday set out its demands for "opting-in" to the social chapter of the European Charter in a further signal that it will not bow to all directives on social issues.

A policy document argues that despite Britain's opt-out of the social protocol British companies trading with Europe were finding themselves increasingly affected by its provisions.

Britain needs to participate fully in the European Union's social dimension to ensure that it meets the requirements of a modern competitive economy, the paper says. "We cannot do so from a policy of isolation. We need a voice at the table in order to safeguard our interests."

The paper argues that European social policy should concentrate on establishing a level playing field of minimum standards. "It should not be used to impose a

large amount of centrally determined social regulation," it says. "Respecting the principle of subsidiarity, action at the European level should not seek to replace the policies of member states. Most social measures should continue to be determined nationally."

The paper, *A Business Agenda for Europe*, says that as part of the opt-in to the social protocol a Labour government would wish to get agreement from other countries "on a realistic timetable for implementing its requirements". Any future proposals put forward under the terms of the protocol would need to be examined in close consultation with industry, it says.

In addition, any developments in conditions covered by the social chapter would have to take account of the need to maintain and improve competitiveness.

Despite Labour's decision to back the government's policy of non-cooperation over the beef ban, the policy paper argues

that to promote Britain's economic interests "we need to form alliances and work constructively with our partners".

The paper also calls for further reforms to extend and improve the single market; enlarging the European Union; reforming the common agricultural policy; tackling fraud in the European budget and improving the effectiveness of decision making.

The policy document says the inter-governmental conference should agree measures to make decision making more open, transparent and efficient. The Council of Ministers should end the practice of passing laws in secret and should publish the minutes of its legislative proceedings.

Qualified majority voting should be extended in some areas and consultation between business and government should be improved by issuing green papers where policy has an impact on industry, the paper says.

Parliament could better represent minorities says Major

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR hopes that more candidates from ethnic minority communities will stand for Parliament.

The Prime Minister says in a television programme to be broadcast tonight that he would welcome more candidates from ethnic minorities after admitting that the House of Commons does not reflect the existing ethnic and gender ratios in Britain.

Mr Major says: "The present mix of the House of Commons does not remotely reflect the mix of the country as a whole, either in terms of Asian candidates, West Indian candidates, or indeed the male and female balance of the population."

He adds that he would be "delighted" to have more parliamentary candidates from Asian communities standing for Parliament, but emphasises that the selection of Tory candidates is a matter for local constituencies, not for party headquarters.

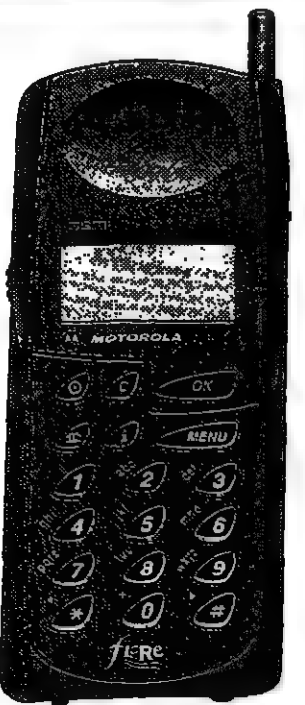
There are currently six MPs from ethnic minority communities in the House of Commons - five Labour and one Conservative. If the Commons representation reflected the three million-strong ethnic minority population there would be about 35 MPs from ethnic minority communities.

Interviewed for the Asian current affairs programme *East tonight* on BBC2, Mr Major said that he had practical experience of living with people of other ethnic backgrounds in his youth when he lived in Britain. "I grew up that way, I like to think I'm colour-blind," he said.

Tony Blair tells the programme that Labour is committed to having Asian candidates. "We are keen to make it possible for people, more Asian people, to come through and represent constituencies, particularly... where there's a very high Asian population," the Labour leader says.

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Yeltsin outwits poll rivals with peace visit to Chechenia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday attempted to turn his biggest electoral liability into his campaign trump card when he visited Chechenia and declared himself a messenger of peace.

In a stunning gesture of political showmanship, the Russian leader made a brief but symbolically important tour of the breakaway republic, thanking soldiers for fighting, promising civilians reparations and even accepting partial blame for the disastrous 18-month conflict which has claimed 30,000 lives.

Mr Yeltsin's unannounced visit took everyone by surprise, not least Zeldin Khan Yandarbiyev, the Chechen rebel leader, who was still in Moscow to finalise details of the truce agreed by the two sides on Monday.

Tamara Zamyatina, a commentator for the Tass news agency, reported what no government official would dare to say publicly — that the

Chechen guerrilla chief was being held hostage for the duration of Mr Yeltsin's visit. "By creating conditions under which Yandarbiyev and accompanying Chechen officials were 'being held' in Moscow, the presidential security service was able to be polite, observe protocol and ensure the security of both sides," she said.

Meanwhile in Chechenia, Mr Yeltsin made a quick but effective campaign tour, visiting a village, a Russian infantry unit and making a brief stopover in Grozny, the Chechen capital, which was badly damaged during the Russian siege last year.

He promised the civilian population federal funds to rebuild the country's infrastructure and finance new homes and businesses. He told soldiers of the 205th Motor Rifle Brigade that they had helped to "win the war". To the people of Grozny he acknowledged "my share of the blame" for the "mistakes

and serious miscalculations". Moreover, the Russian leader got what he wanted out of his four-hour tour — the chance to tell Russia that one of the bloodiest chapters in its recent history was coming to an end.

"My first impression from the visit to Chechenia was that peace has come to the republic not only on paper, but also in practice," Mr Yeltsin said at the end of his trip. "Not a single shot can be heard. This is the greatest pleasure both for the Chechens and federal servicemen."

Although his remarks were regarded as extremely premature, given that yesterday marked the first day of the latest in a number of ceasefires, his declarations completely wrong-footed his rivals in the presidential race.

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader currently falling slightly behind Mr Yeltsin in opinion polls, was forced to concede that the peace deal, although too late, was still good for the country.

Others could not contain their annoyance that the Russian leader had succeeded in orchestrating the peace deal less than three weeks before the elections. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist candidate, predicted that the truce would last only until polling day.

Mr Yeltsin would do well to bear in mind Mr Zhirinovskiy's warning. Russian and Chechen negotiators inched forwards yesterday on their plan to demilitarise the region by withdrawing Russian forces and disarming Chechen guerrillas, and releasing all captives.

But the question of sovereignty at the heart of the conflict has not even been addressed. Mr Yeltsin yesterday insisted that Chechenia would remain part of the Russian Federation with special status and he vowed that rebels who continued to fight against Moscow rule would be eliminated.



Eye of the beholder: the Venus de Milo conforms to universal ideas of beauty — Madonna succeeds despite them



Why beauty is more than skin-deep

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE widely held belief that ideas of beauty vary from culture to culture has been severely denied by new research from America revealing that even babies share a sense of what is attractive and people everywhere judge each other by subconscious rules of sex appeal.

A survey published by *Newsweek* also shows that attractive men have their first sexual experience at least three years earlier than their less desirable counterparts.

Studies have shown that people considered attractive

fare better with parents and teachers, make more friends, earn more money and have better sex with more beautiful partners.

Although rolls of fat can still signify status in the Third World and lip plates are more prominent in the East Africa than in Kensington, the survey suggests that attraction is based on shared preferences. When British researchers, for example, asked women from England, China and India to rate pictures of Greek men, they responded as though working from a collective crib

sheet. Scientists in Kentucky discovered that a diverse collection of faces shown to whites, Asians and Latinos from 13 countries produced the same effect.

Rebuffing scepticism from those who believe ideals of beauty are learned, Judith Langlois, a psychologist at the University of Texas, placed three- and six-month old babies in front of pairs of photographs.

Each pair included one face considered attractive by adult judges and one regarded as unattractive. The same pat-

tern has always emerged, with the infants gazing significantly longer at "attractive" faces.

The rules appear quite simple, according to *Newsweek*. Men must be slightly above average height, have prominent cheekbones, a large jaw, muscular torso, a waist-hip ratio of 0.9 (where the waist is 90 per cent of the hips) and wrist and ankle symmetry.

Women, on the other hand, should have large eyes, a small nose, full lips, firm symmetrical breasts, smooth unblemished skin and a waist-hip ratio of 0.7.

WORLD SUMMARY

Briton is 'slave' in Cambodia

Phnom Penh: The Khmer Rouge has enslaved a British mine-clearing expert and his Cambodian colleague, who were kidnapped in March, to build up a stockpile of explosives and home-made mines, a senior Cambodian military officer said yesterday.

Christopher Howes, 36, of Bristol, and his Cambodian interpreter, Hun Hou, were reported in good health in the Khmer Rouge stronghold of Anlong Veng, 200 miles north-west of Phnom Penh, the officer said. (AP)

Aum guru 'tried to kill himself'

Tokyo: Shoko Asahara, the guru standing trial for murder after the 1995 gas attack on the subway, said he was ready to die to save his cult, Aum Shinrikyo, from legal extinction (Robert Whymant writes).

Fighting to prevent the Government from banning the group as a subversive organisation, Mr Asahara, 41, said he had twice tried to commit suicide in his cell in the Tokyo Detention House.

Rangoon rally targets Suu Kyi

Rangoon: Burma's military Government stepped up the pressure on Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader, by staging a second mass rally in two days to denounce her. The rally was held as a three-day meeting of her National League for Democracy Party was coming to a close after approving a series of measures likely to infuriate the regime. (Reuters)

Turkish leader challenges Ciller

Ankara: Turkey's Prime Minister, Mesut Yilmaz, who faces a censure motion in parliament, says he will step down if his coalition partner, the True Path Party, makes a power-sharing deal with the Islamic Welfare Party. His remarks are a challenge to Tansu Ciller, the secularist former Prime Minister. (Reuters)

Albanian police beat Socialists

Tirana: Albanian riot police surrounded Socialist Party headquarters after beating opposition leaders at a demonstration against Sunday's general election which some foreign observers have called unfair. The Government of President Berisha blamed opposition supporters for attacking the police. (Reuters)

New chief takes over in Ukraine

Kiev: President Kuchma of Ukraine appointed Pavel Lazarenko as the new Prime Minister to replace Yevgen Marchuk, who was sacked earlier for failing to achieve economic reform. Mr Lazarenko, who was born in 1953, was previously First Deputy Prime Minister. (AFP)

Cops and robber

New York: A pickpocket chose the wrong target when he robbed two tourists in Times Square. They were Colombian policemen who chased and caught the man, turned him in and got back their \$300 (£200).

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Clinton abandons military defence in sex case conflict

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BATTERED by a week of Republican ridicule, President Clinton abandoned yesterday his bid to delay a sexual harassment lawsuit by arguing that, as Commander-in-Chief, he enjoyed legal protection similar to that of soldiers on active duty.

Robert Bennett, Mr Clinton's lawyer, said he was filing a new brief to the Supreme Court that would rely on several other arguments which were contained in his original submission.

The retreat came after the Republicans began broadcasting television commercials during the Memorial Day weekend telling voters that the President who avoided the Vietnam War draft was now claiming a servicemen's rights. On Memorial Day five veterans ran full-page advertisements in 15 American newspapers declaring: "To retreat from the call to arms and then later embrace its code when it is convenient is an outrage to all who served."

Mr Bennett called those

advertisements a "grotesque and disgraceful distortion". He said that he had originally cited a 1940 law protecting active duty servicemen from having to defend themselves in civil lawsuits "primarily for illustrative purposes" and never as the core of the President's submission.

Paula Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, has accused Mr Clinton of propositioning her in a Little Rock hotel room during his term as Governor of Arkansas. Mr Clinton, who denies the accusation, wants the Supreme Court to overturn a recent Appeal Court ruling that the case can go to trial while he is still in residence at the White House.

Coincidentally, Mr Clinton yesterday announced new medical benefits for Vietnam veterans suffering from prostate cancer or nerve diseases caused by Agent Orange, the powerful herbicide used by the US military to flush Vietnam Communist guerrillas from their jungle retreats.

Duke's visit to Gibraltar condemned

FROM DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR AND TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

GIBRALTAR is preparing a warm welcome for Prince Philip who arrives on the Rock tomorrow for the first time in more than 35 years officially to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Madrid, however, is not pleased. Reading to the Duke of Edinburgh's plans, Inocencio Arias, the official spokesman for the Spanish Foreign Ministry, said that "the visit makes us very uneasy and unhappy".

This is the highest level royal presence here since the Prince and Princess of Wales arrived in the summer of 1981 to start their honeymoon, a move which had led King Juan Carlos to boycott the wedding. The Queen last visited Gibraltar in 1954.

Prince Philip visits the Rock at a time when relations with Spain over Gibraltar are tense. The bank holiday weekend saw six-hour queues at the border despite British demands on Madrid.



Kennedy: film may shed new light on assassination

TV footage reopens file on Kennedy

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

TELEVISION footage unearthed in Dallas yesterday of events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy may offer new evidence about the most notorious American crime of the twentieth century.

Shot by an independent television station on November 22, 1963, the 45-minute black-and-white film contains unique scenes before and after the death of Kennedy.

Although it does not include the attack itself, it nevertheless shows police searching for an assassin, subsequent pictures of Lee Harvey Oswald at the Dallas police station, and his killer, Jack Ruby, at a press

conference two days before he was to shoot Oswald.

The 16mm film was rescued from a wastepaper basket in the newsroom at KTVT by an employee named Roy Cooper.

He kept the original and made a copy for his friend, Eli Sturges. The men had hoped to sell the footage to the highest bidder but failed and it lay hidden in Mr Sturges's home until his stepdaughter, Janet Veazey, handed the spool to the *Dallas Morning News* earlier this month.

Experts hope the footage, which is being transferred to the National Archives, will provide further insights into the killing. "This is significant historical film," said Richard Trask, an archivist.

Basques go to war over home for 'Guernica'

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

BASQUE nationalists called yesterday for the "repatriation" from Madrid of Picasso's *Guernica*, arguably this century's most famous painting, and for its permanent transfer to a new picture gallery in Bilbao.

Guernica has seen skirmishes before. It hangs at present in Madrid's Reina Sofia museum, to which it was moved from the Prado museum in 1992 contrary to the artist's wishes. Picasso had decreed

that the painting should never hang in Spain while General Franco ruled, and it was not transferred from New York's Museum of Modern Art to the Prado until 1981.

Authorities at the Reina Sofia, however, scoff at the latest Basque demands, and a museum source yesterday described the idea of the painting's transfer to the Guggenheim museum being built in Bilbao as "demented".

The museum is fiercely possessive of *Guernica* and last year turned down a

request by the Pompidou Centre in Paris for its temporary loan. But the demand for its transfer to Bilbao, made recently by Iñaki Anasagasti, the parliamentary spokesman for the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), could soon prove a problem for José María Aznar's Government, which relies on PNV support for its parliamentary majority.

The 1937 painting commemorates the destruction by aerial bombardment of the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War.

RUSSIAN ELECTIONS

On 16 June, 1996 there will be elections in Russia of the President of the Russian Federation. Russian citizens visiting Britain or permanently resident here have the right to participate. Voting will take place at the Embassy of the Russian Federation, 15 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QX (tel: 0171-229-3628), at the Trade Delegation, 32 Highgate West Hill, London N6 6NL (tel: 0181-340-1907) and at the Russian Consulate General, 58 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7HL (tel: 0131-223-7098) from 8.00 a.m. till 10 p.m. Voters must have with them valid passport clearly indicating that a holder is a citizen of the Russian Federation.

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Red Cross predicts ten-year doubling of refugees total

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE number of refugees seeking shelter from war, oppression and tyranny is likely to double in the next ten years, according to the International Red Cross. More than 60 million people throughout the world will be the huddled victims of injustice and persecution by 2005.

Most will be the victims of war and civil war, ethnic and religious tensions and collapsed states. But as governments clamp down on the flight of refugees to other countries, more and more will be internally displaced. This will make them more difficult to reach and harder to help, the Red Cross says.

In its report on world disasters, the Red Cross also gave a warning that more than ten million people were uprooted each year by public works projects, such as dams. In 1990 only 21 per cent of appeals launched by the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies

were for people on the move; by 1995 the figure had risen to 70 per cent.

Some countries such as China were creating "environmental refugees" by forcibly dispersing migrants to the towns back into the countryside. The report said China's rural working population totalled 450 million, but 120 million were without any real work and 80 million had migrated to cities in search of jobs; by 2010 half of China's population might live in crowded cities.

Red Cross workers saw continuing problems in the Balkans, a grinding crisis around Rwanda and looming hunger this year in North Korea unless there is a concerted international response that United Nations experts say is needed to avoid famine. The Swiss-based organisation gave a warning that money for relief was likely to fall from the peak of £2.3

billion in 1994. It also forecast that food aid needs would exceed supply by up to 38 million tonnes in 2005.

There was real concern, the report said, about food security as populations grew inexorably. Within 35 years China's population would outstrip its ability to feed itself. In the Horn of Africa region, almost half the population — about 71 million people — do not have secure food supplies, and 22 million of them require food aid.

In black Africa food production could have grown up to 3 per cent a year for 20 years, had there not been continual fighting.

Altogether, more than 133 million people are affected by naturally triggered disasters each year, such as earthquakes, drought, floods, hurricanes, landslides and volcanoes.

On average, 143,000 are killed and nearly five million

THE COST OF WORLD DISASTERS
1995 Relief Operations £ thousands

NATURAL DISASTERS		ECONOMIC COLLAPSE	
1 Bangladesh	628	28 Haiti	2,085
2 China	5,380	29 Afghanistan	2,149
3 Cuba	288	30 Cambodia	1,793
4 Caribbean	742	31 Belarus/Moldavia/Ukraine	2,539
5 North Korea	2,603	32 Central Asia	4,600
6 Philippines	337	33 Russia	2,244
7 Bangladesh	383	34 Iraq	7,374
8 Central Africa	715		
9 Mexico	2,102		

REFUGEE MOVEMENT

10 Eritrea	615
11 Kenya	2,885
12 Rwanda refugees	44,497
13 Somalia	1,350
14 Sudan	1,481
15 Uganda	2,623
16 Benin/Ghana/Togo	456
17 Liberia and region	2,253
18 Angola	3,659
19 Congo/Zaire	414
20 Malawi	—
21 Mozambique	1,386
22 Burma refugees	240
23 Nepal	533
24 Sri Lanka	448
25 Vietnamese boat people	258
26 Former Yugoslavia	33,548
27 Caucasus	13,444



most costly were floods, followed by high winds, accidents and earthquakes. Ethiopia and Bangladesh suffered the most, with the most people killed in disasters, followed by China, Sudan, India, Mozambique and Peru. Of the world's 30 armed conflicts last year, 12 were in Asia, six in Africa, six in the Middle East, three in Europe and three in the Americas. In 1990-95, Africa saw more battle-related deaths than Europe or the Middle East, despite the fighting in former Yugoslavia and the Gulf War.

Serbs hurt women on peace trip

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE local radio station in Prijedor, a town in the Serb Republic best known for imprisoning Muslims and Croats in concentration camps in 1992, reported on Sunday that the civilian population had bravely repelled an attack by Mujahidin and mercenary fighters.

The foreign forces alleged to have penetrated Serb territory yesterday gave a press conference in Sarajevo. They were 44 women from an international women's peace group, known as "Through Heart to Peace", which has made several trips to Bosnia-Herzegovina throughout the war to plant "trees of peace".

Dressed in T-shirts emblazoned with hearts, they set out at the weekend on a coach escorted by troops from the Nato peace implementation force with the aim of planting a tree in Kozarac, a Serb village outside Prijedor and the home of Dusan Tadic, the Bosnian Serb on trial in The Hague for war crimes.

"We wanted to plant a tree in Kozarac," said Gillian Kean, the group's spokeswoman, "because we believe good will, friendship, and I dare say love, may make a difference when nothing else does. We planted trees in Mostar, Knin and Sarajevo; it only seemed fair to plant one there."

The group, made up of women from Europe and North America, claims to have no political or religious affiliation. The plan had been to plant the tree, then drive on to the Bosnian capital to meet other women.

The group had contacted Nato, the United Nations agency for refugees, and the local authorities in Prijedor to clear the visit as a "matter of courtesy". When the coach, which was escorted by Nato armoured personnel carriers, reached the outskirts of Prijedor, however, it was met by a menacing crowd of civilians, brandishing sticks and rocks. They hurled stones at the bus, shattering its windows and forcing the women to retreat.

The group said they were outraged by the event. "There is no way they could have mistaken us as a mercenary group of Mujahidin. The knew who we were," Mr Kean said.

Over the past few weeks groups of mainly Muslim refugees have tested the freedom of movement guaranteed to them by the Dayton peace accord by attempting to visit the towns in the Serb Republic from which they were expelled during the war. Time and time again, however, they have been met by hostile Serb crowds who have successfully thwarted the pilgrimages.

Death for killer of SAS veteran

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

HARARE'S High Court sentenced to death the killer of a veteran British former Special Air Services officer, bludgeoned to death in his bed here three years ago after a 50-year career in international clandestine operations in the world's trouble spots.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Coventry was 76 when Elijah Chimuchenga attacked him with the butt of an 1873 Winchester rifle the officer had collected on one of his operations, and he died after a month in a coma. Judge Moses Chimuchenga said the attack "showed the unacceptable face of human degeneracy and callousness", and found Chimuchenga guilty without extenuating circumstances, the daily Herald newspaper said yesterday.

The London-born colonel showed his talent for unconventional warfare in Afghanistan soon after he joined the British Army, and spent much of the Second World War behind German lines, once killing an SS trooper with a single punch to the jaw.

He finished his military career, at the age of 72, by parachuting at the head of Zimbabwean forces into a Mozambique rebel base, and directing the attack armed only with a walking stick.

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هكذا في الاول

Heat on Olympic staff as they race to prepare 'biggest thing in history of America'

Atlanta faces marathon task before Games begin

WITH 50 days to go before the start of the centennial Olympic Games, downtown Atlanta is a mess. A small city with big ideas has already moved the Earth to get this far, but that has left heaps of top soil.

Builders worked overtime through last weekend's Memorial Day holiday. Bulldozers shovelled rocks and men with glue guns tried to repair pavements loosened by thunderstorms and Atlanta's shifting sands. The Olympic park is a dustbowl.

Can they be ready on time? "We have to be, simple as that," said Bob Brennan of the Olympic Games committee, "but there are bound to be nay-sayers right down to the wire." A.D. Frazier, the committee's chief executive, added that he sleeps like a baby: "Dream for this hour, then wake up and cry for an hour."

Dale, a recent arrival from Philadelphia, said: "These games are going to be great for business." But Dale was one of several tramps — ten in 28 hours — who asked me for money in Atlanta's "Olympic circle", the site of the hotels, shops and main arenas. The stadium has been built on the site of former public housing, but the beggars present a whiffy contrast to the antiseptic Olympic gaudy. Atlanta may need to do what Peking did before the 1990 Asia Games and jail the deadbeats until the show is over.

Atlanta's tramps like to lollop along beside you, making small talk. Two tried to flatter my presumed white liberalism — "thanks, mister,



Braving energy-sapping temperatures and a plague of beggars, Quentin Letts reports that Atlanta still has many hurdles to overcome

you're one of the few guys not to treat me like black dirt" — and all swore it was impossible to find work. That day's *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* had 30 pages of "help wanted" adverts. Nancy Ware, a restaurateur, has had to import nieces and godchildren from around America and put them up at her house while they do menial work for her.

Temporary incarceration has befallen Billy Payne, the property lawyer who one restless night in 1987 first thought

of bringing the Games to Atlanta. At the weekend Mr Payne was taken to hospital for surgery on a herniated disc in his neck. When he is discharged from St Joseph's hospital, some Atlantans want to ask him about the amount of public money going to the Games, which he said would be privately funded. It was reported last week that the public support will exceed \$810 million (£536 million).

Much of it will be spent on a security force of 31,000 people,

from federal agents for VIPs and the Clintons to local police, volunteers and undercover personnel. Officials from Atlanta have been to Israel for anti-terrorism training and there are fears that one of America's anti-government militias may attempt an IRA-style "spectacular".

Atlanta's climate could be equally destructive. On a May afternoon it reached 93F, a temple-thumping, polluted, humid heat that saps your energy. Late July will be hotter. Bill Taylor, a native Atlantan and environmental scientist, said: "I am delighted the Games are being held here, but in high summer? They're crazy. The marathon runners will collapse."

In mid-town, at noon, I asked for directions to a place less than a mile away. "Don't try to walk it," said a labourer behind the wheel of a Ford pickup. I did walk it, at leisurely pace, but by the end my bones were weary and my shirt was soaked. "We will have first-aid folk at all venues and will tell visitors to carry water," Mr Brennan said.

The heat affected the Olympic torch relay in Missouri at the weekend when it dribbled from a canter to a trot, a jog, a slow shuffle and finally to a panting crawl. The aged runner appeared about to melt when she was urgently replaced. Back in Atlanta, a squad of cheerleaders rehearsed the opening ceremony in the 85,000-seat stadium. Their teeth were marshalled by all-American braces while their steps were choreographed by a man who looked like Sir Cliff Richard.

Mr Brennan said: "Atlanta has always been a hey-look-at-me city. We speak too often, perhaps, in superlatives, but this event is the biggest thing in the history of the United States in peacetime. Atlanta is going to be one of the 20 greatest cities in the world."

For all his optimism, however, Atlanta remains a cute Southern town boasting an equestrian statue of John Brown Gordon, Confederate general and leader of a hillbilly platoon called the Raccoon Roughs. The Olympic committee could use a few of those boys right now.



A tramp pitches for business in Atlanta's Marietta Street



□ An ultra-violet index will warn spectators of over-exposure to the sun.
□ 21 million pounds of ice will cool drinks — and competing horses.
□ A computerised scoreboard for boxing will prevent fiddling.
□ The more than 10,000 athletes, except when in action, will wear electronic

pages so that they can be contacted immediately.
□ The mascot of the Atlanta Games is a silly little creature called Izy (originally "Whatizit"). The next Olympic city may be

one that promises to do away with any mascot.
□ Palm-reading "Hand Identifier" machines will be used at high-security gates.
□ Officials will use more than 15,000 mobile telephones and walkie-talkies.
□ The swimming pools have a computerised "surge system" to reduce waves.
□ The computer network for the Games will be able to carry the equivalent of the information in *The Times* every day for the next 30,000 years.
□ The Olympic Village is within yards of America's greatest greasy spoon, the Varsity restaurant (est. 1928). Onion rings like lassos, chips with everything and barbecue pork which will add hours to sprint times.



American Jafer Johnson, Olympic decathlete, on the first leg of the torch relay

Atheists call for vow of silence

AN ATTEMPT is being made to stop Georgia's evangelists from proselytising during the Olympics.

The Freedom from Religion Foundation attacked Baptist plans to greet tourists with official Olympic hospitality packs including water, suntan lotion, peppermints and a "plan of salvation".

The foundation, a national group of atheists and agnostics, called the Baptist campaign "a blatant violation of

separation of Church and State, putting the power and prestige of government behind one denomination and one religion".

The Baptists hope to hand out their packages and uplifting booklets at state-run rest stops. "Let them do it on private property," the foundation said in a letter to Zell Miller, Georgia's Governor.

The Rev Toby Frost, for the Southern Baptist Convention, replied that preaching was

permitted under "constitutional freedoms" and said he would welcome atheists to his rest missions.

Tourists arriving in Atlanta will find volunteers pressing them to discuss Christ. Atlanta is a fervently religious city and has more than 2,000 churches. Catherine Watson, an elderly Jehovah's Witness, dispensing religious literature on the street, said: "The Games will bring rich pickings for the Lord."

False reef has surfers on crest of a wave

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

SURFERS in California are riding high after an unlikely alliance of surfing enthusiasts and oil company executives announced plans to build the world's first artificial reef.

Designed to enhance the way a wave breaks, the reef will be made of 30 polyester bags, each filled with 300 tonnes of sand, to be submerged off Dockweiler State Beach in a giant "V". The idea, so far untested, is to restore the gradual, curling breaking pattern for which the Dockweiler waves were once famous.

Since the Chevron oil giant built a jetty in the early 1980s to link its nearby refinery to tankers offshore, the Pacific swell has been sloshing ineffectually onto the beach. The artificial reef is designed to meet incoming waves apex first. The wall of sand will slow down the bottom of a wave, forcing the top to break, spreading outwards as the wave flows over the "V".

The unusual edifice will not be fixed. It will be dumped from barges, one bag at a time, on to a plastic sheet the size of a football field, put there to minimise shifting.

Environmental groups and the Los Angeles County Department of Recreation and Parks have yet to give the experiment their blessing, but the omens are good: similar sandbags have been used to protect offshore drilling rigs.

Surfers are delighted. Officialdom has at last recognised that "rideable ocean waves are a resource to be protected". Steve Hawk, editor of a surfing magazine, said after provisional approval by the California Coastal Commission, Chevron has offered \$300,000 (£197,368) in funding for the project.

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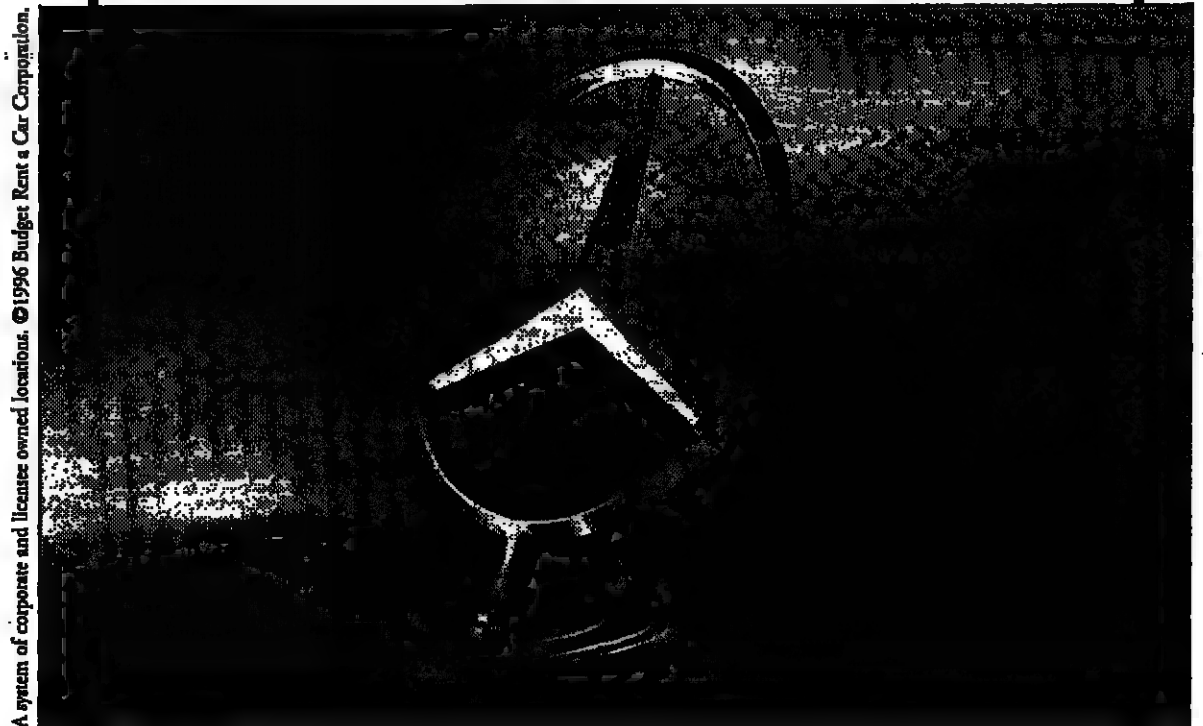
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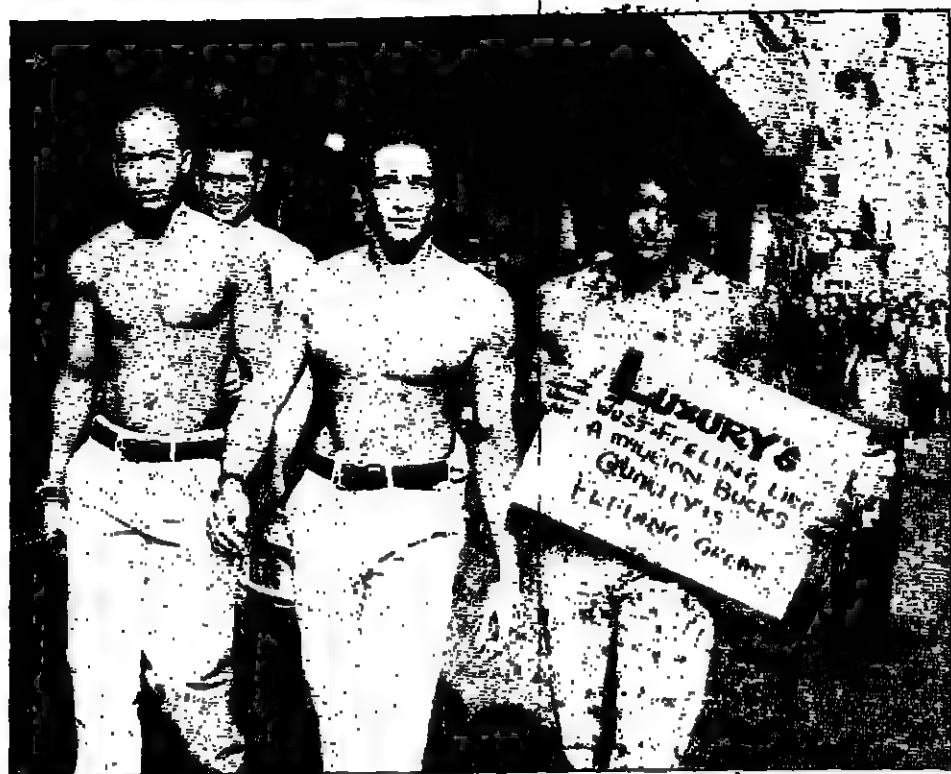
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Look who's wearing the trousers



Levi's Dockers: so popular that Levi's claims six out of ten 18 to 35-year-old Americans wear them

THE LATEST advertisement for the swanky house of Chanel, synonymous with luxury and glamour, features models Shalom Harlow and Amber Valletta. They are dressed in matching chequered jackets (pastel pink and sky blue, respectively) with shawl collars, flap-pockets, ribbon-edge binding and no front fastenings — the latest update by Karl Lagerfeld of Coco's original trademark design.

Each girl wears a pair of flat, two-tone Mary Jane sandals. Harlow sports a white cropped vest revealing a leather and gilt chain belt around her waist. It is somewhat surprising to find that the bottom halves of both girls are clad in identical pairs of practical, down-to-earth chino pants.

The sight of these utilitarian trousers in non-specific shades (they are available anywhere between off-white and khaki) and hardy cotton drill — first on the Chanel catwalk and then on the printed page — is enough to set alarm bells ringing at Vogue House. A trend definitely in the making: Lagerfeld is nothing if not a barometer of taste, and is always quick off the mark with the latest must-have item.

In America, Calvin Klein (another trendsetter) features larger-than-life chinos (or khakis as they are known there) in his latest CK Jeans collection. In the 1990s, it looks as if Klein will do for chinos what he did for blue jeans in the 1970s: make them sexy.

"It's about a casual sensuality," says Klein. "A new uniform that is an alternative to traditional jeanswear." Once again Klein's advertisements feature skinny teenagers wearing vastly oversized trousers. This is the hippest way to wear your chino pants, a take on the street style popularised by black Gangsta Rap singers and bands. It is also remarkably flattering: baggy, low-slung trousers offer the

Chinos, oversized and on the hips, are staging a comeback

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

illusion of being ultra-slim. Klein's models also come topless, as do the boys who wear Levi's Dockers. Levi's launched Dockers, its own line of chinos, in America in 1986. The brand has become so popular that the company now claims to dress six out of every ten men across the country between the ages of 18 and 35. There are four styles in 12 shades.

The advertising campaign to launch the line in the UK features half-naked men strolling the streets in nothing but a pair of tough-looking Dockers and a sturdy belt. To accompany the print ads there is a spoof broadsheet newspaper which unravels "The Mission" — a manifesto "against the formal conventions, rules and restrictions that make life uncomfortable and boring..." In it a spread features an image of a business-like briefcase repeated over and over under the



Calvin Klein fuses the "casual sensuality" of outside chinos

words: Get To Know Your Reality. It duly attacks conservatism, formality, conformity and elitism. Another spread, headlined "Imagine A World Without Uniforms", shows a Wall Street type in suit, collar and tie. The subtext reads: "If God created Adam, the Devil designed his clothes."

The true origins of the chino are less ominous. Originally, British India exported khaki-coloured cloth to China, and then China sold it to Americans in the Philippines during the First World War. The Americans called the pants "chinos" because of their supposed Chinese origins.

In America, they became the favourite off-duty gear for Hollywood stars such as Gene Kelly, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean and Grace Kelly, who favoured the anonymous-looking item as part of their downplayed off-screen images.

The chino pant soon became part of the uniform of the preppy collegiate as portrayed by Ryan O'Neal in *Love Story*. Most popular in the 1950s and 1960s, they were usurped by the over-the-top jeans until the late 1970s, when they again came back into vogue. Their timeless image is enduring.



Calvin Klein is doing for chinos in the 1990s what he did for jeans in the 1970s — making them sexy



CHANEL

Karl Lagerfeld puts Chanel models in check jacket and chinos

Chinos are still a firm favourite among campus kids. In her summer collection, the New York designer Anna Sui parodied the look, mixing Madras checked beanle hats, nerdy anoraks and chinos teamed with the ultimate preppy footwear — Hush Pup-

pies. Suede shoes have stepped back into style and are being worn by the pop elite. Blur and Oasis. Hush Puppies are available in Britain through Dolci's stores nationwide in tanga shades of orange, lime, purple and the more subdued khaki. The

hippest way to wear them is without socks for that all-year-round holiday look. Suddenly everywhere you look there are girls and guys wearing chino pants. Last summer the style setters went wild for camouflaged fatigue trousers, and this year the chino (a less aggressive relation of the combat pant) is destined to become the fashionable choice.

HOWEVER, it is the appearance of chinos on the international catwalks and in a recent issue of *Vogue* magazine which has afforded the straightforward trouser its star status. It may be just another example of the perverse pleasure that fashion stylists and designers find in taking the plain and turning it into something special for the smart set, but Tina Laakkonen, a fashion editor at *Vogue*, who featured chinos from Gap (some of the best) teamed with a lilac-checked jacket from Bhs in the pages of the May issue, just wanted to replicate that Chanel look.

"That whole story was about doing high street versions of designer looks," she says. "I thought the chinos at Chanel were one of the most interesting ideas on the catwalks."

This was Karl showing another great way of wearing the Chanel jacket. He is always trying to find new ways — in the 1980s he put the jacket with a pair of denim jeans. This is more relaxed but at same time extremely classic. What could be more classic than chino pants?

THE MOVIE STARS



Gap's advertising campaign uses Gene Kelly



and Marilyn Monroe in their off-duty Hollywood gear



Grace Kelly relaxes in the pants that Hollywood loved

TECHNOLOGY

- Women's, cotton: £575, Chanel, 31 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 6631).
- Women's, cotton: £21.99, selected Dorothy Perkins (0171-291 2604).
- Men's, cotton: £65, Katherine Hammett Design, 20 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-823 1002).
- Women's, cotton: from £30, The Gap (0171-518 6300).
- Women's, gabardine: £65, Calvin Klein Jeans and leading stores.
- Men's, cotton/nylon: £89, Nicole Farhi, 158 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8368).
- Women's, cotton twill: £32, Racing Green, 193-197 Regent Street, W1 (0345 331177).
- Men's, cotton: £89, Mulberry, 41-42 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 3900).
- Men's, polo classic: from £80, Polo Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 4967).
- Women's, cotton: £25, selected Debenhams.

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Manners from heaven: the escort has long been familiar in society circles. Nowadays it is married businessmen who pay for company

Pay and display: men who cost £75 an hour

Surely that handsome young man you sat next to at dinner last night can't be Lucinda's new beau? He isn't. He's the man from the agency. A friend of mine — public school and university educated, from a family whose name is blazoned in Burke's Peerage — has taken to turning a quick profit as a male escort.

As an unpublished writer, he is as much in search of copy as cash, so he skirts his way around the social scene on the arm of a woman who has hired him for the night. The oldest profession in the world, it seems, is catching up with the equal opportunities of our times.

The gigolo — a breed as burlesque as his hair is bouffant — has been around since the 1920s. A dapper dresser in blazer and slacks, with sentiments shallower than his sun-tan, he has long been familiar in society circles. There was Joan Collins's erstwhile escort "Bungelow Bill" — so called because he had nothing up stairs, but plenty downstairs.

The lounge lizard is sloughing off his old skin and finding himself much in demand again. Rachel Campbell-Johnston on the Nineties gigolo

Or there was Larry Fortensky, alias Mr Elizabeth Taylor Number Eight. His wedding present was to get his hair, teeth and nails redone.

But the lounge lizard is sloughing off his old skin. I accompanied my friend one evening to meet his fellow escorts on one of their regular get-togethers in a bar in the Strand, in central London.

Manners fell from heaven. The hint of a cigarette raised to the lips brought on a rock concert flare of lighters. As I drifted through a haze of competing aftershave, I came across a shy — and somewhat cagey — young man who had come along to find out more about being an escort. A fuchsia spot of embarrassment blossomed on each cheek when I told him I was with The Times. "Don't mention my name in anything you

write," he pleaded. "I don't want my parents to know what I'm doing." The next day a colleague approached me. "You met a friend of mine last night," he said. "I was at Eton with him and he phoned to ask me if I would ask you to please not mention his name."

Other escorts, however, were less shy about their work. Liam is 25. He was brought up in Kent and educated at private school and Sandhurst before joining The Blues and Royals. When he was injured in a fall from his horse he became a model, but with assignments few and far between he turned to escorting. Hired out at £75 an hour, he was first attracted to the job by the money.

He estimates that about 70 per cent of the women he takes out are married. "A typical client would be a travelling businesswoman," he explains. Alone in a strange city, a woman can find herself facing grim options when it comes to time to relax. In the bar she risks harassment from bibulous travelling salesmen. If she goes out to dinner, she falls prey to the sympathetic glances of cosier couples. "If she hires an escort, she can go out and feel comfortable, unthreatened and in control."

Liam's agency, L'Homme, has nearly 100 escorts on its files. The escorts operate nationwide and range in age from 20 to 60 and in nationality from Australian to Afro-Caribbean. But once a client has chosen Liam — above Barry, for instance, from NW9 who is interested in aromatherapy and world affairs, or Clifford of Godalming who bashfully boasts "the cutest bottom in Surrey" — his first contact with her will be by phone.

"It is important to ask them what sort of clothes they want me to wear, whether it is casual or black tie," Liam says. "I have been booked for a dinner dance, for instance, when the tickets had been bought in advance but the

woman's husband had suddenly been unable to go.

"Once it was the husband who called me and I didn't even talk to my client until I arrived to pick her up. Her husband was there, he was recovering from flu, but he was very protective. I could tell from the way he shook my hand — he almost left it bruised."

"At the end of the evening he was still up and I drank a whisky with him. It turned out that he knew someone in my old regiment and after that we got on well."

When Liam goes out he always makes sure he is clean shaven and he wears a touch of aftershave. "It's the details that matter," he says. "Things like clean nails and polished shoes." Operating in London he usually uses a taxi to pick the woman up. She pays the fare. But if he is going outside

London or needs a car, he borrows a Mercedes from a friend.

His client often gives him cash before they start out so that he can pay for taxis, drinks at the bar and cloakroom tips. He returns what is unused at the end of the evening. At dinner he usually chooses the wine, but tries to let the woman guide him regarding the price.

He sometimes makes friends with his clients. During the past three months he has been going out regularly with the wife of an American businessman who is working so hard that he is too tired to go out at night. The couple have only recently moved to London and she has no friends here. Since she loves to salsa, she hires Liam to take her to Latin American clubs. "She is gradually beginning to meet people and soon she won't need me," Liam says.

Other engagements are strictly one-offs. One of Liam's colleagues was booked by a lesbian who had not yet dared

Parents have a right to all the information

A rum formula

Is it arrogance? Is it stupidity? Is it cynicism? I cannot imagine what it is that makes the Government feel it is acceptable — and, what's more, politically wise — to keep mum over the precise findings of its own research into the levels of certain chemicals in infant formula milk.

The Government's mishandling of the BSE crisis — and it is its maladroitness that has made it into such a crisis — has made us all nervous and suspicious. Can a government minister truly believe that now, as he is questioned about the presence of phthalates in formula, is the time to tell us that "if we say things are safe, then that is what we mean"? Even to think of uttering such a remark shows a want of judgment, which is even more outrageous than the patronising high-handedness his answer also betrays.

I suppose in the first instance the concern must be whether there really is any danger in infant formula. Well, yes, we know the Government says there is none, but if, after all, its own research reveals that in some or all of the baby milk tested, there are present levels of chemicals which are known to have a feminising effect, potentially leading to reduced fertility in males and an increase in breast cancer in females, then clearly this is not some fantasy of an irresponsible press, as Her Majesty's ministers would like everyone to believe.

It's not that I believe the Government is necessarily lying, or that it is motivated by the ignoble desire to cover anything up, but surely any halfwit, even one in the present administration, could see that this cagey behaviour makes it look as if that is exactly what it is doing.

Besides, I cannot see any intellectual justification for withholding further information. It's not good saying condescendingly that the British public really doesn't want to be bothered with scientific tables which won't mean much to anyone when clearly the British public is asking for more information, and along those lines, it may well be that the findings, unexplained, would lead people to worry unnecessarily, but it is not for the Government to tell us how or when we may legitimately worry, or what about.

I can see that the Government believes it is not just protecting the interests of the manufacturers of baby milk, but also — more pointedly — those of the consumers, or rather the consumers' parents. If a baby is being fed on formula, then better not to worry his or her mother about it. There is already enough sniffing about the unfairness of making mothers feel guilty about not breastfeeding in the first place.

Shortly after I had my first baby, a midwife told me about some research into feeding. Apparently there had already been

amassed information in significant enough amounts to show a correlation between formula-feeding and, when compared to breastfed babies, an increased likelihood of cot death. Such findings would not be published, she said, because no one wanted to scare people, or to make those who fed their babies on formula feel worse about it.

I am sure there are many doctors and scientists — and, not to forget them, government ministers — who will rush forward to insist that there is no evidence for such an assertion. Perhaps that is so: Dr Sutcliffe yesterday wrote eloquently enough, as ever, on the very unreliability of such scientific evidence, its underlying irrelevance as a guide to what may or may not be the case. Apart from anything else, we all know, or should know, that in medicine there is only opinion, not fact. But that doesn't mean certain opinions should get hushed up.

The truth is, however much people pontificate on the likelihood or otherwise of there being any pernicious side-effects to infant formula, or on the "very idiosyncrasy" of the idea, no one knows; indeed, no one can know at this stage. So any insistence that there is, categorically speaking, no risk whatsoever has to be fallacious.

What is so very unsettling in all this, too, is the inconsistency it reveals. After all, how can a Government that believes in publishing every league table going suddenly turn around and say that the relevant data should be withheld here?

What's happened to choice, to the public's right to information that already exists in order to make that choice? It's all very suspicious — but not surprising. This particular hypocrisy is not so much intrinsic to this Conservative Government, but to government itself.

I don't believe that a Labour government would behave any differently. All parties — as psephologists know — behave in the same way once elected. Openness is always more attractive to those in opposition than to those in office. As far as the politicians are concerned, the great British public is a useful rhetorical touchstone, but just a damned nuisance when it thinks it can start interfering with the real business of government which, after all, knows Best.

In the present instance the Government concludes that there is no danger, therefore no need to know. This at the very least shows muddled thinking: our right to have access to any data cannot depend on what that data might be or where it might lead. But most of all, I can't help feeling it is a bit rum coming from the lot who have decreed that only the guilty insist on the right to silence and that the innocent need no such protection.



Nigella Lawson

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Alan Coren



I didn't know we were fighting for the freedom to break windows and heads

I had a good war, all in all. Picked up a bit of shrapnel, of course, but who didn't? There was a lot of it flying about, then. A chap didn't make a fuss.

"What's that, Coren?"
"Nothing, sir. Bit of shrapnel."
"Shrapnel, eh? Better let me take a look."

"It's only — ow!"
"What do I do to boys who pick up dangerous things?"
"You give them a clout with Old Tom, sir."

"I give them a clout with Old Tom, correct?"
My knuckles still smart in wet weather. What kind of madman calls his stick Old Tom? Nobody in 2a knew for certain why our dear form-master had not been called up, but the strong suspicion was that he was being held in reserve in case Hitler pulled anything really nasty, eg, poison gas, in which event Mr Churchill would tear up the Geneva Convention, send a khaki Humber tearing round to Barham Park Primary, and parachute the crazy bastard into Berlin. If that ever happened, we gave Hitler ten minutes.

He returned the bit of shrapnel at the end of term, though, after I had made a poignant plea for it on the grounds that it had helped to demolish my grandfather's greenhouse. The greenhouse copped it during a night raid on the Fairley Aviation factory at Hayes, a mile or so from the grandparental. Wembley sent where I was then billeted, and I can still smell the dust from the carpet inside the Morrison shelter in the dining-room being beaten into my nostrils by the concussion, and hear my grandfather tearing open the blackout curtains to see what the crash was all about, and shouting: "They've got the greenhouse! They've got the greenhouse!" as if it had been the Luftwaffe's sole priority. Dornier pilots five miles up cheering and congratulating one another on having at last wiped out the geraniums at 4 Copland Avenue, breaking radio silence to moose the news to an ecstatic Goering, leaning into the chill blackness to paint another greenhouse on the fuselage, turning joyously for home and Iron Crosses, arms linked, singing the Horst Wessel song.

Why do I suddenly think of all this now? Only because, after half a century, I went back to Wembley on Sunday evening for a bridge match, and we were a little early, so I drove around a bit in order to fascinate my wife with wondrous tales of vanished fish-parlours and Scout hut, and we went past the house I used to live in, and turned a corner into a similar quiet suburban street, and there came upon three Asian men putting up steel scaffolding, a dozen feet high, behind a front-garden wall.

But while we could see half of why they were doing this, because it had been done to the houses on either side where the poles were now supporting heavy steel mesh, we couldn't fathom the other half of the why, which was the half about needing 12ft high heavy steel mesh in the first place. So I pulled over and got out and asked them, and with that wry politeness which decent folk reserve for imbeciles they pointed out that Euro 96 was just a week away and Wembley Stadium only half a mile from where we stood. Which meant that for the three sporting weeks between June 8 and June 30, their street would be filled with countless sportsmen keen to bung bricks through their windows. What kind of sportsmen? Distracted supporters of knocked-out teams? Enraged victims of ticket touts and forgers, left seething to vent their spleen on anything breakable? Mainland continentalists, perhaps, retaliating against John Major's War Cabinet? Well, no: for my old neighbourhood is now an Asian one, and where a generation back, it went in fear and trembling while Nazis smashed its glass, it goes in fear, in 1996, of exactly the same. Or, rather, almost exactly. The tiny difference is that the Nazis are British, now.

So count yourself fortunate, dear reader, that I have such little gift for irony. Otherwise, I might have made a bit of a meal of all this.



DÉJÀ VU

On being bloody-minded

Major's Operation Moo is a phoney war, but neither side will give an inch

Yesterday a British expeditionary force crossed the Channel and established contact with the enemy. Fighting at battalion strength, Brigadiers Freeman, Oppenheim and Chalker penetrated the Berlaymont enclave, braving a withering fire of ridicule. They replied with salvos of *nons*, *neins* and *ochs*. The enemy was surprised and took heavy casualties. It retreated to lick wounds of hilarity and amazement. The day went to our boys. Thanks be to God and St George.

The first engagement of the Great Beef War left a number of corpses on the battlefield. There will now be no further moves on Aids in the Third World, no help to Asian refugees and no steps to cut red tape for small firms. Ahead lie bolder horizons. British ministers will next fight efforts to curb Euro-fraud. They will veto a plan to counter drug dealing and improve liaison between police forces. With this salient secured, John Major may next commit his divisions against reforms to the common agricultural policy and a wider European Union. Europhobia is coursing his veins. The howls of the tabloids ring in his ears. No foreigner is safe from the thin red line of heroes when veto is in the air.

Never was it more true that politics is war by other means. The British Cabinet faces an enemy, has an objective and (we assume) has a war plan. The enemy is made up of the member governments of the European Union. The objective is ending the ban on British beef. The war plan is a secret, but Downing Street confirms that there is a war cabinet and a secretariat in place. Hostilities have been brought forward from next month's Florence summit. Operation Moo is under way.

The first threat to any plan comes not from the enemy but from Generals Mischandling and Hindsight. They have their uses. Back in March, when the BSE story broke, the Government found British beef instantly banned by the French, Dutch, Belgians, Portuguese and five German states. These bans were illegal. They were imposed by the relevant authorities with obvious glee, supported by farm lobbyists eager to wipe out competition. (This has proved counter-productive: even farm lobbyists can make mistakes.) Given the limited nature of the "provocation", the bans were a gross abuse of the collective unity of the common agricultural policy.

All trade bans are evil. They are usually imposed by governments to prove their virility to some interest group. But some may be necessary evils. I suggested in March a swift retaliatory ban on continental beef, to bloody the noses of continental producer interests and to level the field for subsequent court action. If other governments chose gunboat diplomacy to exploit Britain's tentative (and honest) scientific research into BSE, the best reply was more gunboat diplomacy. A ban against a country in which Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is more prevalent than in Britain (such as Germany) would be as defensible as Germany's ban against Britain.

The fiasco could have gone to the European Court and awaited the outcome, with both sides bleeding.

We can argue all night over the handling. It was inviting overreaction for the British Government to announce the BSE findings in that cauldron of hysteria, the House of Commons. But that does not affect the rights and wrongs. Had Britain retaliated at once, foreign governments would have protested that British scientists started all this. But the scientists specifically rejected any need for a ban. It was foreign governments who turned a scientific controversy into a war. They launched their bans before the EU veterinary committee had even met. They started this fight. Britain too had interests to defend. In diplomacy there is sometimes a virtue in being tough.

Mr Major did not take this route. He bided his time and had to watch mortified as the rest of Europe marshalled its forces against him. He retaliated only last week, and after the failure of the veterinary committee to lift the ban on British beef by-products. He eventually declared war over tallow and semen. That beats even the strange war of my namesake's ear as an absurd *casseus belli*. The form of British retaliation was not to hurt the instigators of the war, the continental beef producers, and so turn the enemy's flank. Instead, Mr Major

attacked the workings of the Council of Ministers. He did so with a flurry of briefing about a "war cabinet", knowing this would stimulate an odious xenophobia in the tabloid media. Downing Street cannot plead innocent on this account. It knew what it was doing. (I wonder what will be tossed to the Right next week, capital punishment or a Divorce Bill capitulation?)

All this and more is presumably set out in the war plan. European delegates are meant to gasp as Roger Freeman, Lynda Chalker and Peter Oppenheim patrol the Brussels committee rooms reading out their BSE message, like gay rights demonstrators at an Anglican synod. The foreign ministers are expected to crawl home and lobby with their farm lobbies to see reason and welcome British beef back into their freezers. I am at a loss to see why they should. French and German beef can be sold in Britain, but their producers are protected from reciprocal competition. If I were a continental farmer, I would not give an inch. I would pour cash into my consumer groups and lobbyists, insisting that British beef is unsafe and always will be, until every British cow is a cinder and every British farm is set aside for rambling.

Non-cooperation may be magnificent to the châteaux generals of Downing Street, but it is not what I call war. The engagement seems phoney. It smacks of Tweedledum and Tweedledee: "Let's fight till six, and then have dinner." Cohorts of Eurocrats must be smirking behind their desks. As for the war plan, its course seems indeterminate. The "framework" demanded by Britain of the Council of Ministers for ending the ban is unlikely to help British beef back onto world markets. Yet its compensation cost of £2.4 billion is indefensible. This cannot make sense. Such money would be better spent on marketing, when the hue and cry has died down, than on slaughter.

British public opinion is not stupid about Europe. There is no poll that shows a majority of Britons wanting to withdraw from the EU. But when so-called partners on the Council of Ministers behave like hostile trading powers, Britons want fair play. When they do not get fair play, they want retaliation.

Yes, the British Government is in trouble domestically. What is strange about that? The same is true of most democracies. Since the days of the Common Market, the European Union has had to tailor itself to the domestic sensitivities of member governments. The sorry tale of the agricultural policy is one of weakness by all governments in the face of their farm lobbies. Behind that weakness lurk unmentionable monsters. Do not push the Germans too far in negotiation. British ministers are told. There is always a German election in the offing and dark forces are lurking in the shadows. Remember the French farmers and what terror they can strike in the streets of Paris. Never rock the Italian boat, for the Communists are waiting to take over. As for the Dutch, be kind to them. They are still in awe of the Germans.

And Britain? Britain is different. It is a land of settled government. Public opinion needs no referendums or recalls. When a British minister gives his word in negotiation, he carries the authority of a whipped Parliament and a deferential people. Britain sticks to the rules, implementing even the Brussels directives it detests. London is expected to accept whatever horror emerges from Europe. Politics may be the occupational disease of most democracies. Britain is supposedly immune.

This smug thesis has surely run its course. The same political virus is now raging through the British Government as through those of its European partners. A war has been declared. Mars has been awakened. He demands of those who summon him a most uncomfortable libation, either victory or defeat. We should leave aside talk of mishandling. Hostilities in the beef war were not opened by a scientist setting out a conundrum. They began with a French customs officer ripping apart a British beef lorry without legal authority. That is what sent British forces into Belgium yesterday. They have gone as fools. They had better come back as heroes.

Simon Jenkins

Where the Tories and I may part

George Walden on what would make him resign the whip

When I announced that I would not wish to be a member of a super-patriotic Conservative Party, and that in certain circumstances I would be forced to consider detaching myself, I did not expect laudatory commentaries in the press. In our febrile atmosphere, I expected my views to be travestied and given an anti-patriotic spin, and I was not disappointed.

The *Times* portrayed me in an editorial as a Europhile afflicted with the values and attitudes of an Enarque, who is out of touch with the popular mood. It cannot be that there is a non-Europhile argument against nationalism, so critics must be converted into Europhiles. "If you are not with us you are against us" is an unpretty maxim for our major national newspaper. Equally tasteless are low allusions to foreign doctrines and connections.

Under the nationality test currently in progress, I can lay claim, though a non-cricketeer, to all the patriotic virtues. I am opposed to further integration with Europe, and was one of the first to speak of a referendum on a single currency (which I also oppose). Unlike John Redwood, Michael Portillo and Norman Lamont, who were in Government at the time — though they could have resigned — I did not go into the Maastricht lobby without public demur, and abstained on a number of votes. Now as then, my view is that it was a treaty too far. My forebodings that Maastricht would produce nationalist tensions are coming true.

As for my alien instincts and doctrines, it is true that I have worked for my country as a diplomat. My experience fortified my belief that British sanity and sense of proportion are our major assets, on which much of our international influence rests, and resists. As for the talk about Enarques, the position is worse than any critics supposed. I spent a year at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA). That is one reason why I am opposed to centralising policies and mandarin attitudes, notably over Europe. When, canvassed by the Prince of Wales a few years ago about setting up an ENA here, I strongly objected, insisting that the last thing we need are more senior administrators, and that what works in one culture may not transfer to another.

On beef derivatives (God help us) my position is close to that of the sagacious Lord Rennie-Mogg and no less sagacious Peter Riddell, stalwart patriots both. Our national position is unseemly and will rebound on our reputation, and against a Prime Minister who felt weak enough to succumb to his own pique and to petty nationalist pressures. In so doing he has demeaned us all. Patriots are not supposed to make fools of their own people.

I have a farming constituency, and although the farmers support the Government's actions I have heard not a single chauvinist word from them, or from the farmers' union. Like me, they know where the problem started, and do not pretend otherwise. Nor do they underestimate the difficulty of lifting a ban while consumers abroad lack confidence in our products. I have heard farmers, patriots to a man, expressing embarrassment at jingoism. To paraphrase Carlyle, when the very tailors become *sans-culottes*, it is time to take note.

As for my intentions, the first is to oppose the rancid Little Englandism that has gripped the country by whatever means I can, if only because a noisy and petulant Little Englander is a most ridiculous person. To bring down the Government over tallow would be ridiculous too. Equally it would be absurd to subject my constituents and endlessly tolerant Conservative Association chairman and agent to a beef-election.

Moreover, should it go in the Government's favour, which is not impossible since my vote has increased over three elections to 62 per cent, the victory would give the Government a boost, so encouraging our nationalists to greater endeavours. Even Enarques and mandarins, you see, can understand low politics.

But these are reverses. I shall continue to vote with the Government because I believe that most of what it is doing is right, and because I am not attracted to Labour or the Liberal Democrats. But for me, policy towards Europe is a defining issue. The Tories have weapons enough against Labour — the single currency, the veto, the social chapter — without plastic Union Jacks made in Taiwan.

The issue which could cause me to say farewell to the party is not easy to predict. If the Government does not know where it is going, how can it? The danger is that it has got itself into a position from which it cannot win. The pressure on John Major not to fail the cricketing test by "seeing it through" will be great. When he gets his derivatives victory, as no doubt he will, or his bit of paper promising a "framework" to lift the ban, I predict cries of "Chamberlain". The *Times* among others will say that it is not enough, and that he is flinching from the main battle. If he doesn't succeed with beef, it will say the same.

For the moment, I grouch and bear it. But if Mr Major is goaded into widening the assault and extending non-cooperation, instead of hard negotiation, to the future of the EU, then I reserve my position. My ultimate test is, what Dr Johnson — he who scoffed at "plebian patriotism" — would have done. Should the Government lurch blindly forward against an adversary only dimly defined through the fog of nationalist rhetoric engulfing it, then, as our German friends say, *ohne nuck*: without me.

Princely some

BIG IDEAS are not strange turf for the Prince of Wales, but the disclosure on this page by the man of the moment, George Walden, that he once considered setting up a British equivalent of the French Ecole Nationale d'Administration represents a step up in thinking. The ENA, set up by de Gaulle to train the generation of post-Vichy civil servants, is maligned and mythologised across Europe.

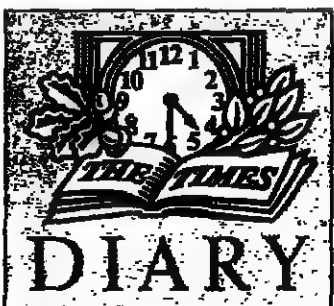
Graduates include the French President, Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, and legions of mandarins and technocrats. To its admirers, the ENA is the ultimate finishing school, producing top-notch administrative plumbers, the sort who devour briefings for breakfast. To its detractors, it is a nursery for snaky Eurocrats with paternalist megaschemes for Europe and the morality of a hundred Talleyrands.

Unsurprisingly, in the Seventies, Ted Heath instituted a programme for Whitehall high-flyers to attend the Ecole for a year, learning the dark arts of French administration.

It is most odd that the Prince considered setting up an ENA in Britain," says a perplexed Euro-

sceptic MP. "The place only ever produces the Euro-crazy sort who manipulate their leaders rather than serving them."

● Poor George Best. Fifty last week, on the wagon, and now being stood up at the pictures. The other day, he was spotted at his local cinema in Chelsea, frantically tapping his watch, his mien gloomy. After much pacing around, he finally entered alone



just before the start of the film, a thriller called *Copcat*. "He left just before the film finished," says an observer. "Perhaps he didn't want to be seen leaving alone."

Into touch

TWICKENHAM is on the march. The latest victims of the new stony-faced professionalism of rugby union are the primary school children of the London suburb. For 26 years they have had their sports day at the famous local stadium. Now the Rugby Football Union, which runs the place, have booted them out in favour of more lucrative bookings. Having endured the heavy traffic brought on by the RFU's empire-building, locals have had enough. The walk in the hydrangeas is now of picketing. The RFU attributes its action to

a problem with its turf reseeded programme after extra fixtures. But Martin Vassallo, chairman of the local primary school sports association, thinks this a feeble excuse. "I feel for the children, because to see them run onto that famous pitch is wonderful," he says. "But this seems to be the way rugby is going."

And stick

ANOTHER misfire from Eurostar, the freight Channel Tunnel service. Offering a two-for-one price on trips to Paris, the company sent out packages to 100,000 customers. On the package was a picture of a red rose. Inside was a carrot, an advertiser's gimmick to underline the generosity of the offer. Bad idea.

By the time the freshly dug carrots reached their destinations they were black, mildewed and less than conducive to thoughts of a romantic break in Paris. Eurostar's marketing director, Mark Furlong, defends his decision. "They were only in the container for two or three days," he says, "and it was never our intention that the carrot was something to keep and cherish."

● I hope the organisers of Chichester Cathedral's weekend flower festival have a sense of humour.



Mark Jefferies and his errant plane: the Poles are not amused

Entitled "Darkness into Light", the show is in trouble after an extended power failure.

Bad turn

NOT SINCE Mathias Rust touched down in Red Square nine years ago has there been a story to match Mark Jefferies' weekend foray into Polish airspace. Jefferies, 37, a former British aerobics champion, was buzzing around with two other aircraft at an air show east of Berlin. One wrong turn, according to Polish authorities, and Jefferies had back-flipped his Yakovlev 11 some three miles into Polish airspace.

In the light of the Second World War, Poles are not much amused by the sight of two Russian planes and one German zooming in on them. Within moments, the wires were screeching, with Poland's top brass firing off messages to the show's organisers.

"Charlie" Jefferies, who once destroyed an instrument panel with his head during an abortive take-off, is dismissive of the accusations. "We could see the ground and didn't, as far as we could tell, cross the border." The Poles do not agree and the matter is to be investigated by British authorities.

P.H.S



A VOICE FOR ULSTER

Why Conor Cruise O'Brien brings hope to the North

Twenty-two years ago, representatives of Ireland North and South, nationalist and Unionist, tried, in the shadow of a Berkshire golf course, to secure a stable constitutional settlement in Ulster. After the Sunningdale talks, Ian Paisley saw a sell-out and Gerry Adams brought back the gunmen. A generation later those two men have hardly moved. But one man who tried to make the Sunningdale agreement work, although he knew well its flaws, has come far.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, an Irish nationalist and minister in the Dublin Government during the Seventies is now, at the age of 78, fighting a new political battle. He is standing in tomorrow's elections to the Ulster peace convention. This former nationalist now hopes to represent the Unionists in another series of talks to determine Ulster's future.

Dr O'Brien's odyssey is the story of reason, sympathy and democracy winning out over blood and myth. And few are more supremely qualified to speak on this issue either by intellect or sentiment. His study of Edmund Burke, *The Great Melody*, is one of the finest analyses of that beguiling combination, the liberal and the conservative. Both men share Irish birth, a sympathy for the oppressed, a feeling for tradition and, through those characteristics, a message for today. If Northern Ireland is to find peace it should find a place for Dr O'Brien at the table.

When he sat in the Irish Cabinet, Dr O'Brien tried to secure peace on the basis of Sunningdale, with power-sharing in the Province and a Council of Ireland to transcend the border. But already he knew that, while power-sharing was a far from perfect but worthwhile attempt to escape from past mistakes, undermining the wish of Ulster's people to remain British was counterproductive.

As a Catholic and a liberal he sought to move Ulster beyond sectarianism. But as a democrat he recognised that it was the

sincere and settled wish of Ulster's majority to remain within the Union. Since then Dr O'Brien has moved from sympathy for Unionism, to vocal support, and now to standing for the United Kingdom Unionist Party (UKUP). He has risked the disliking and begrudging words of Dublin to stand up for the principle that Ulster's future should be settled by democrats, not dictated by terrorists.

Both as journalist and politician, Dr O'Brien has consistently penetrated Sinn Féin's empty formulas. He has argued that the revolutionary soldiers of the IRA may sometimes change tactics but never their violent and undemocratic intentions. He has been called a Cassandra and suffered her cold comfort. When the IRA ceasefire ended with the murder of two innocents he was proved, sadly, right.

The UKUP is a new party, founded by Robert McCartney, MP for North Down and a successful barrister born in working-class Belfast. Unlike many sons of the Shankill he is resolutely opposed to the Protestant triumphalism of traditional Unionism. His party is non-sectarian, pluralist, and committed to making the Union work. The UKUP's stance has seen the Ulster Unionist Party of David Trimble place a Catholic on its list of candidates for the peace poll. But for Unionists who prefer constitutional to confessional politics the UKUP, Mr McCartney and Dr O'Brien will be an attractive alternative.

Their intervention, and that of a host of other parties who claim to speak for the Unionist majority, has led David Trimble to give warning of a "shredding" of the Unionist vote. There is a danger that moderate voices will be marginalised. But, in the longer term, the Unionist embrace of voices such as Conor Cruise O'Brien — tolerant, intelligent and Catholic — will make it more likely that the greater number in Ulster who believe in the Union will find the stability that the Province needs.

TURKEY IN TROUBLE

Secular forces must combine against the Islamic threat

Turkey is one of the most vital members of the Atlantic alliance, a country whose regional and geostrategic importance to the West has grown considerably since the break-up of the Soviet Union, the fighting in the Balkans and the Gulf War. Yet for the past six months, since general elections in December, the country has been rulerless, unable to form a stable government and beset by the bickering of politicians.

Yesterday Mesut Yilmaz, the embattled Prime Minister, insisted he would not resign unless his former coalition partners, Tansu Ciller and her True Path Party, were able to make a deal with the opposition Islamists. His defiance was an attempt to rally Turkey's squabbling secular politicians and unite the Centre-Right against the Welfare Party, the largest single block in Parliament, which Necmettin Erbakan, its Islamist leader, insists is on the point of gaining power. Were it to do so, more than 70 years of secular politics would be at risk. Ataturk's legacy, including post-Ottoman Turkey's Western orientation, political moderation and social progress, would be thrown into jeopardy.

Mrs Ciller, fighting corruption charges and resentful of what she regards as betrayal by Mr Yilmaz, with whom she initially formed a coalition, is in no mood to listen. Her party is now flirting with the Islamist opposition, underlining its centre-right views and playing down the deep division over the role of religion in politics. Her tactics are cause for concern, within Turkey and abroad.

The Welfare Party maintains that it is neither fundamentalist nor anti-Western. Such claims need to be examined sceptically. It is true that since the party captured control of Istanbul in local elections, it has not enforced the kind of puritanical regime its opponents prophesied: rather, it has had

some success in reforming social services and reducing corruption. Nevertheless, the party's roots go deep into Turkey's past. It draws on a rural, Islamic tradition never completely suppressed by Ataturk, and has been reinforced by young radicals inspired by the example of Islamic activism elsewhere in the Middle East.

A win by the Welfare Party would send a shudder throughout Nato. It would call into question many of the fundamental assumptions that have made Turkey such a steadfast ally. Ankara, under Mr Erbakan, would also certainly renounce the recently signed military co-operation agreement with Israel — an agreement denounced by Mr Erbakan in terms so unpleasant that they verged on outright anti-Semitism. In seeking to strengthen its Islamic identity, Turkey could side with Arab opponents of the Middle East peace process; it might turn a blind eye to Islamic terrorists seeking shelter; and it would probably cease to be the linchpin on which the West's enforcement of the no-fly zone over northern Iraq rests. The future of American bases in Turkey would be less secure, as would Turkish commitments to Nato. And Turkey's relative restraint in its quarrel with Greece would turn to militant bickering.

Alarm would be raised not only in the West. The Turkish armed forces, the guardians of the secular Ataturk legacy, might be tempted to intervene — a dangerous move at a time when Turkey is using its regional power to set an example to Central Asia. Mr Yilmaz is due to meet President Demirel tomorrow. He should tell him that he will resign and set about immediately forming a new and durable coalition with Mrs Ciller. Only by setting aside their personal animosities can they give Turkey the responsible leadership it deserves.

SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS

The Defence Ministry makes a good income from its disposals

Pssst... warina buy a used howitzer? Off the back of an army surplus lorry? Or even the lorry itself? The Ministry of Defence has embarked upon the sale of the century — or at least the second such. The end of the last World War spawned the first big disposal of surplus kit; the end of the Cold War is bidding fair to match it.

Between 1945 and 1950, the Services sold off 885,000 lots over 2,450 selling days: equivalent to a non-stop auction lasting for nearly seven years. Civilians were delighted to bid for Forces gear when so little food, clothing and equipment could be bought on the open market. And the quality of goods issued to servicemen was higher too.

But that soon changed. Army gear became so ill-designed that many soldiers took to buying their own. In the Falklands War, those soldiers who suffered from trench foot looked enviously at their comrades who had bought their boots from camping shops. The Army-issue windcheaters swished, the packs were heavy and the sweaters scratchy. Civilians might from time to time have adopted army surplus gear as a bargain fashion item; but it was not much good at its primary purpose of keeping its occupants warm and dry.

The new kit, called Combat Soldier 95, is

now as high-spec as the lurid gear that ramblers and mountaineers sport to irritate country-dwellers. When this hits the army surplus stores, civvies who would rather blend in with their surroundings than advertise their presence will rush to buy it. Meanwhile, however, the huge stock of other gear that was built up during the Cold War to ensure that Britain could fight an instant battle is starting to hit the streets.

Last year the Disposal Sales Agency netted £78.6 million for the taxpayer in job lots ranging from frigates to combat jackets, minesweepers to navy run. This new executive agency, set up in 1994, appreciates the value of stock that used to be sold for a pittance. By bringing in private-sector contractors to match buyers with surpluses, the agency managed to make more money for the Ministry of Defence in three days last year than it had in the previous 12 months of auctions.

Usually the running-down of stocks is seen as a sign of recession. In the Ministry of Defence it is a sign of peace. Purists should not sneer at the heavy marketing, complete with certificates signed by General Sir Peter de la Billière, of gold sovereigns issued to special forces in the Gulf War. Of such good husbandry are tax cuts made.

Judges' discretion when sentencing

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, Simon Jenkins is wrong in suggesting (article, May 25) that the cause of the judges' disapproval of the Home Secretary's proposals for automatic life sentences on a second conviction for some violent crimes and minimum ones on a third conviction for domestic burglary and some drug offences is that they see them as an attack on their profession. They do not. They see them as an affront to the justice which is their function and duty to safeguard. They regard themselves as the Queen's delegates to perform the part of her Coronation Oath whereby she undertook "to cause law and justice in mercy to be executed in all [her] judgments".

It may be difficult for those who have not spent their professional lives in the courts to appreciate that those who have really do believe that on the evidence in each case they should identify what justice in mercy requires to be done. This is what matters to them, nothing else.

Were I still a judge it would go against my conscience to sentence an offender, whatever previous convictions he may have had, to life imprisonment for causing grievous bodily harm with intent, an all too common offence, if the evidence had shown, as it sometimes does, that he had been provoked into a momentary loss of temper.

Nor would I willingly sentence to a minimum of three years' imprisonment a socially inadequate and penniless man who, living in a hostel, had walked into another's room, broken open the gas meter there and stolen the contents. Under the Theft Act 1968 in some circumstances this would amount to domestic burglary.

Thankfully, being in retirement, I shall never have to pass sentences which I believe to be unjust.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village, Skelton, York.
May 25.

From the Home Secretary

Sir, Simon Jenkins makes two errors which invalidate his conclusion.

First, it is quite wrong to suggest that my proposal for an automatic life sentence for repeat sexual or violent offenders is "a straight shift of power" from the judiciary and the Parole Board to Home Office ministers and officials. Home Office ministers and officials will have no role in the new sentence.

The trial judge will set the "tariff" — the minimum period of imprisonment to be served. Near the completion of the tariff, the Parole Board will assess whether the offender still poses a risk to the public. If he does not he will be released; if he does he will not.

In this way the public will be protected from the most serious offenders in a way that simply does not happen now.

Simon Jenkins suggests that the figures in the White Paper for the sentencing of repeat burglars were specially selected to support my proposals. The figures in the White Paper were the most up-to-date then available. Further figures for periods after the 1991 Act had been repealed and figures for earlier periods before the 1991 Act had been implemented show a very similar pattern of sentencing.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOWARD,
Home Office,
50 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
May 27.

From Mr Leslie G. Leek

Sir, I believe that, with his unprecedented attack on Michael Howard's policies, the retiring Lord Chief Justice is totally out of step with the vast majority of the public who believe that the law favours the criminal classes and fails to support the law-abiding. In every community there are individuals who constantly flout the law and are free within hours to commit similar offences, making decent people's lives a misery.

When they are eventually sentenced to derisory terms of imprisonment they have no fear of prison with its lax regime and know that parole, remission and home-leave schemes will very soon see them back on the streets again. Everyone should back the Home Secretary and help us to rid society of persistent criminals.

One thing is sure: criminals cannot harm the rest of us when they are locked up.

Yours etc,
LESLIE G. LEAK,
Trelawney House,
St Ives,
Cornwall TR26 2DE.
May 23.

Rail privatisation

From Mr Martin Walker

Sir, With at least 600,000 private investors applying for shares in Railtrack (report, Business, May 20) surely it is part of our Government's election strategy to believe that a significant number of these investors will now vote to protect their new shareholding at the next general election. The wallet is an important consideration for the floating voter.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN WALKER,
6 Branley Close,
Pill, Bristol, Avon.
May 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Europe: the other trading options

From Mr N. J. D. Baptiste

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky ("Economic consequences of the war" against Europe", *Business*, May 23) considers that informed opinion has moved too far towards Euro-scepticism. However, many would draw the opposite conclusion from his diagram showing the relative real exchange rates for five leading countries compared with Britain.

In spite of the huge competitive advantage gained by Britain following the sterling devaluation after leaving the ERM, our total trade (visible and invisible) with the other EU countries showed a deficit of £4.6 billion for 1995. Our total cumulative trade deficit with them since 1973 now stands at around £95 billion.

As a result of the declining growth rate of the continental EU countries, which is likely to fall below 1 per cent on present trends as pre-EMU budget reductions increase, only 44 per cent of our exports now go to the EU, while the last quarter's figures suggest they will fall to less than 10 per cent for the complete year.

The cost of "achieving" such a dire result — for which directors of a plc would have been shown the door by shareholders — was a net contribution to Brussels, after rebates of some £3.5 billion in 1995, plus the loss of national sovereignty over large areas of our national life.

It therefore appears deeply illogical that CBI leaders should consider that there is no alternative to Britain's membership of the EU — especially as two thirds of our industry's investments are overseas while it has spent over £7 billion in the last year in buying more than 100 companies in the US. Trade with the Far East is also rising and profitable.

By contrast, Norway's membership of the European Economic Area provides it with full national sovereignty, low inflation, a substantial trade surplus and the highest growth rate in

Europe (4 per cent), while 80 per cent of its exports are sent to EU countries free of trade and tariff barriers.

Unsurprisingly, recent Norwegian opinion polls show that the percentage in favour of staying out of the EU is now 10 per cent higher than it was when the national EU referendum was held. Perhaps Mr Major will draw the logical conclusions.

Yours faithfully,
N. J. D. BAPTISTE,
23 Gladwyn Road, Putney, SW15.
May 23.

From Mr Keith Robinson

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky takes a laudably rational and self-appraising approach in his speculative analysis of the benefits to the UK of monetary union. I agree with him that it would be foolish to rule out the possibility of locking in a permanent competitive advantage over Germany.

However, the economic detail he sketches in is surely part of a much larger and more enduring picture, in which the greater part of the British people are still Little Englanders, willing to continue carving their niche in the world through limited and traditional European co-operation. The same painting depicts the Germans as having, at least in their leaders' European vision, tendencies of domination that we grew out of decades ago.

Given that the rational economic argument is surrounded by these historical inclinations and culture differences, is not the "lock-in" likely to be very short-term? Would not the safer scenario for our national sovereignty and dignity conform with the fuller painting rather than Mr Kaletsky's pencil sketch?

Yours,
KEITH ROBINSON,
The Wilderness,
Littlewick Green,
Maidenhead, Berkshire.
May 23.

Ogoni murders

From Mr Kenneth Kobani

Sir, As the son of one of the four Ogoni leaders for whose murder Mr Saro-Wiwa was executed last November and for which 19 others are still awaiting trial in Nigeria, I was dismayed to read your report of May 15 (see also leading article, May 16).

These men were arrested along with about 400 others and, after several identification parades, were identified by eye-witnesses as participants in the brutal murder of the prominent Ogoni opponents of Ken Saro-Wiwa. They were not arrested for any form of environmental activism, as their wealthy foreign backers would like the world to believe.

I believe that many supporters of Saro-Wiwa have failed to grasp the nature of the campaign he conducted in Ogoniland, in particular how Ogonis were summoned before his kangaroo courts, to be tried and sen-

tenced, many never to be seen again. But I can also understand why those behind the Saro-Wiwa campaign are not interested in the torture and brutal murder of my father and the three others in broad daylight and the ritualistic dismembering, burning and eating of their remains. These victims were not leashed enough to make regular visits to Europe and America, or rich enough to make expensive, cunningly filmed and edited documentaries to charm glibbie liberals in the West.

Such distortions need to be corrected. Peace and reconciliation in Ogoniland will largely depend on the recognition by Saro-Wiwa's supporters that under Nigerian law "human rights activists" or "minority rights campaigners" have no right to take the lives of others.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH KOBANI,
46 Bladen Court, SW16.
May 16.

Millennium priorities

From Mr Ed Hucks

Sir, I was interested by your report of May 15 (see also letters, May 22) on the £170 million proposal to refurbish the South Bank and the hope of a £127 million contribution from the National Lottery.

Earlier that day I had visited a school in Bradford where the education of half the 460 children is carried out in seven "temporary" huts of appalling quality with serious health and safety hazards and little or no security.

This is not an isolated example: there are 500 such huts in use in this area and no doubt many more throughout the country. The Government's capital investment in Bradford as a whole this year is £4.1 million — just 3.2 per cent of the hoped-for lottery money for the South Bank.

Living wills

From Mr James Bogle

Sir, The effect of making "living wills" legally binding on the medical profession is seldom appreciated (letters, May 3, 10, 16). Doctors would be obliged in many cases to substitute bad clinical practice for good, since they would be compelled by law to follow a prescription signed by a now incapacitated patient, perhaps years earlier, and not what is clinically best for the patient's condition in the present.

This applies equally to the proposed continuing powers of attorney, where a non-medical attorney could oblige the doctor to abandon good clinical

practice in the donor-patient's case. Moreover, the attorney would not *ipso facto* be bound by the strict standards of the medical profession or any other.

"Living wills" are not currently binding in law. An advance statement is often very helpful to a doctor, but only the contemporaneous consent or refusal of a patient is binding and "living wills" are, by definition, not contemporaneous. It is important for doctors to be clear on this matter.

Yours faithfully,
E. HUCKS
(Customer Service Director),
National and Provincial
Building Society,
Provincial House,
Bradford, West Yorkshire.
May 20.

practice in the donor-patient's case. Moreover, the attorney would not *ipso facto* be bound by the strict standards of the medical profession or any other.

"Living wills" are not currently binding in law. An advance statement is often very helpful to a doctor, but only the contemporaneous consent or refusal of a patient is binding and "living wills" are, by definition, not contemporaneous. It is important for doctors to be clear on this matter.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES BOGLE,
Hanover Chambers,
Hanover Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
May 18.

No 'safe' choice of milk for babies

From the Executive Director of Friends of the Earth

Sir, Mothers with babies are in a painful dilemma. With cows' milk discounted as an option for feeding babies (reports, May 23) they are forced to choose between breast feeding and baby formula milk — when both are contaminated with chemicals that can mimic hormones and affect the future health of their child.

In the case of breast milk we know that levels of dioxin exceed the World Health Organisation standards by more than ten times. With baby formula milk exposure to phthalates averages between two and three times the precautionary limits set by the EC Scientific Committee on Food. Infants are being exposed at levels of the same order of those known to cause reproductive damage in rats.

Friends of the Earth research has shown a range of food and packaging that is likely to be contaminated with hormone-mimicking chemicals. At the recent Institute of Environmental Health round table on these chemicals there was a remarkable consensus between non-governmental organisations (NGOs), independent scientists and government regulators about the seriousness of the issues. The chemical industry was isolated in their defence of the status quo.

When we are experimenting with the health of our children surely the Government must urgently impose tough regulations on those chemicals that are known to mimic hormones. In some cases this will inevitably mean banning or phasing out their use, but the short-term inconvenience to the chemical industry would be a small price to pay.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SECRETT,
Executive Director,
Friends of the Earth,
26-28 Underwood Street, NI.
May 28.

O mores!

From the Duke of Devonshire

Sir, Good manners, consideration and mutual respect are the oils which lubricate the wheels of civilised society and without them we all become brutish and unpleasant.

Publication of the Social Affairs Unit report *Gentility Recalled* (details, May 24; leading article, May 25) serves to highlight the importance of The Polite Society's "Campaign for Courtesy", which is all about protection of the social environment — every bit as important, in my view, as protection of the natural environment.

In an age when it is fashionable to sneer at everything and admire nothing we should not disregard these well understood attributes of "gentlemanly" and "ladylike" behaviour which help us all to be at ease with ourselves and with each other.

Yours faithfully,
DEVONSHIRE
(Parson in Chief,
The Polite Society),
Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire.
May 24.

Hymns and anthems

From Canon B. L. Barney

Sir, The lyric of *Jerusalem*, based on the legend that Jesus Christ may once have visited England, was intended for English readers only. The Scots therefore cannot be expected to sing it with sincerity (report, May 17; letters, May 22).

The Church Hymnary of 1927 was intended for Presbyterians in Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales. If the forthcoming edition is for the Kirk alone, *Jerusalem* should not be included. As an Englishman myself, however, I shall always hope to find it in my hymnal for use when folk need stirring up.

Yours etc,
B. L. BARNEY,
7 Holbeck Road,
Scarborough, North Yorkshire.
May 22.

From the Senior Chaplain of Millfield School

Sir, I have always assumed that the "dark satanic mills" in Blake's *Jerusalem* refer to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON BLOKAM-ROSE,
Millfield School,
Street, Somerset.
May 22.

Picture puzzle

From Mrs Mary Gueritz

Sir, I cannot have been the only one to look in vain for the cope and mitre said to be adorning the Bishop of Salford in the picture accompanying Valerio Grove's excellent and hopeful interview article today.

Should I have been, as in childhood, joining dots to reveal the hidden outline of the mitre among the overhead blossom, or pencil-finding the blurred background to find the cope?

No wonder His Grace looks anxious!
Yours faithfully,
MARY GUERITZ,
13 Cambrin Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
May 24.

سكنا من الاول

OBITUARIES

LORD MARGADALE

Lord Margadale, Conservative MP for Salisbury, 1942-64, and chairman of the 1922 Committee, 1955-64, died on May 25 aged 89. He was born on December 16, 1906.

LORD MARGADALE, who sat for more than thirty years in the Commons as Major John Morrison, was a key figure in the Conservative Party through the reigns of three party leaders — Anthony Eden, Harold Macmillan and Alec Douglas-Home. As chairman of the 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers for nine years, he had the responsibility of steadying difficult people in the ranks, taking the party temperature and then telling successive Prime Ministers to what extent their policies were acceptable to the party in Parliament. He had the confidence of both ministers and backbenchers. It helped enormously, of course, to be totally unambitious. Office he did not want. Money he did not need. His shrewd ancestors had left him plenty of that.

One former Prime Minister said of him: "He was that rare person, a wise man. If he told you a certain minister had lost the confidence of the party, you hesitated. Nobody likes sacking people. But he would be proved right by subsequent events." Another said: "He knew what the Conservative Party in the country would stand for and he was never ambiguous about it. Some times what he reported to me I did not like but there was no question of it being other than accurate."

He relied for his information on what he called "people who knew what they were talking about". He did not read books. Newspapers got little more than a cursory glance at the main headlines, a brief look at the death column and then a protracted study of the racing pages. In this sense of priorities he certainly reflected the contemporary image of a Tory "knight of the shires" — though Morrison himself never accepted a knighthood.

As a background heavyweight politician he did not lack critics. The years of his influence were for the Conservative Party among the toughest this century. First, there was the *Suez* adventure when Anthony Eden as Prime Minister tried by force to take the Suez Canal back from Nasser. The subsequent abrupt withdrawal of British troops bewildered the party. Eden's three-week absence in the West Indies in an effort to repair his

shattered health did not help. Then there was the 1957 battle for the succession with the surprise choice — at least as far as the country was concerned — of Harold Macmillan over Rab Butler. In 1963 renewed succession trouble erupted out in the worst circumstances of all for the Tories, the heart of a party conference at Blackpool. Macmillan sent a letter saying that he was resigning for health reasons. Pandemonium broke out. Hats were being thrown into the ring. Uneasiness filled the air. Tory leaders were still at the time evolving from what Iain Macleod called "the magic circle". The result on this occasion was so messy that it was resolved that what were then known as "the customary processes of consultation" must never be used again.

Such a public spectacle was anathema to Morrison, who had his own way of doing things. Late every Sunday afternoon he would retire to his study for hours, and telephone influential backbenchers. The conversation always followed the same pattern. "What's the news?" he would begin. All key strands of opinion on the back benches were consulted in this way. Those in the habit of being rung were known to store up news all week hoping he would call. When they had said their bit, there would be a pleasant and brief goodbye. There was never any conversation. He was a man of few words. Conversation was not something he enjoyed even within his own family. But he loved the telephone. As a former Prime Minister put it: "He was a superbly good listener. He would pick up the essential grain that mattered."

When government business was in danger, as it was over Edward Heath's abolition of *Resale Price Maintenance* in 1964, he had other methods. Recalcitrant backbenchers would be asked to luncheon in a private room at the Savoy. Officially these luncheons never took place but to those who participated they were known as "the cloak-and-dagger lunch job".

Here again he had his own particular style. When people had been well watered and wine Morrison — who spoke only a few times in the House during all his time there — would spell out to his guests what it would mean to their countryside, their homes, their towns if there was not a strong Conservative Party. One vivid remembrance getting "almost a barack square bollocking from a normally very quiet man".



He did his own constituency duties faithfully, much helped by his wife who predeceased him by more than a decade. On one occasion he hitched a plough to a tractor and cleared a way to a snowed-in children's hospital that was close to running out of food. Speeches, though, were never his métier. Once invited to give a speech on education in his constituency, he asked a member of his family to provide appropriate notes, then called over his shoulder: "Put them on a postcard."

Usually he went to the annual Conservative Party conference only on the last day for the leader's speech. Although a powerful man at the centre of things he would be unrecognised — but not unnoticed. He was well over 6ft tall with a massive build, and exuding a powerful confidence and representativeness would ask each other who he was, puzzled by the fact that this splendid-looking man was taking

his seat on the second row on the platform. His real moorings were in the countryside. On a one-day's shoot at Sir Ian Walker-O'Connor's estate at Ballater near Balmoral he once shot 52 grouse with 55 cartridges. Another time on Islay he bagged 128 snipe in one day. He was not an elegant shot as he rounded his shoulders and crouched over his gun but he was an exceptional one. His South and West Wilts Foxhounds, of which he was master for 34 seasons, more than once took the championship at Peterborough, the national foxhound show.

Home was Fonthill House on a fine estate in Wiltshire, which his great-grandfather had purchased for his second son, Morrison's grandfather and also an MP for Salisbury. For the summer recess he would go to his house on the Isle of Islay with its wonderful wildlife, fishing,

shooting and good whisky. A succession of top politicians got asked to spend some of their holidays on Islay. Afterwards they would receive a tastefully unexpected gift — its welcome slightly delayed by the accompanying envelope. In order to make a point about excise duty, Morrison would send out a generous-sized present of his favourite 21-year-old malt whisky from the island — and the envelope, from the Customs and Excise, would contain the bill for tax, about 70 per cent.

John Granville Morrison was born at the family's then house in Belgavia. His father was Hugh Morrison (later MP for Salisbury) and his mother the former Lady Mary Leveson Gower. He was educated at Eton and played in the rugby XV and rowed for his house. From there he went to Cambridge, continuing his sporting interests, playing polo for the university. A grandson asked him years later: "Grandpa, did you take a degree at Cambridge?" Pause. "No, I never intended to be a schoolmaster."

Soon after coming down from university he settled into farming the Fonthill estate. At 22 he married the Hon Margaret Smith, daughter of Lord Hambro. It was then he developed his pattern of country life, and at the very early age of 32 was High Sheriff of Wiltshire.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 the Royal Wiltshire Regiment, still based, and in which he was a captain, was ordered to embark for the Middle East. In readiness for Syria and Palestine they became part of the Cavalry Regiment. Margadale and his groom, who accompanied him, were seen as the best mounted men of the regiment. They had taken to the Middle East the two best horses from the Fonthill stables.

At home his wife continued her interest in local councils, young people's clubs — and, in the early part of the war, foxhunting. On the day after war was declared she was photographed as she rode to the meet of the hounds side-saddle in formal, dark riding habit and top silk hat, saluting a tank from Tidworth when the two met on the road.

With the fall of France in 1940 the Cavalry Regiment switched to tanks. Margadale was posted to Egypt. In 1942 a letter came from the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill. It told him to come home and take the Salisbury seat in the Commons which had become vacant after the death of the sitting Member, a man who had succeeded his father as MP ten years

previously. At the local Morrison Hall, built by another ancestor, his candidacy was agreed by acclamation. During the war there was a tracing of party political campaigning. The party that held the seat previously was given a clear run unopposed by the other parties. But Morrison had two independent opponents.

Churchill's reason for wanting Morrison in the House was to have a fighting soldier fresh from the most active front at the time. The Government was under severe pressure both from the press and the public who felt that there should be more speedy efforts to win the war on the ground. In this context Margadale's maiden speech must have badly disappointed Churchill.

Breaking the convention that maiden speeches should be uncontroversial the young, uniformed MP said that he did not wish to "tear to bits" the latest White Paper on service conditions and then proceeded to do just that. Fighting soldiers conscripted from civilian jobs were on an out-of-date pay scale, taking "no account of inflation". Often they could not afford a drink, a cigarette, or a bit of leave as they struggled to have everything go to their families at home. It was probably the most powerful speech he ever made.

After the war he successfully dovetailed his two main interests — being MP for Salisbury and Master of the South and West Wilts Foxhounds, a post which he held for 34 years. Monday was a particular problem with both interests in danger of conflicting. A chauffeur would be detailed to locate him hunting by 2pm, rush him to the nearest train for London, leaving his horse to be taken to the stables by a groom.

In London he would change out of hunting clothes and top boots at his Knightsbridge flat and then drive to the Commons in what he called "the London car". This was a pre-Mini, very small, and it could be quickly driven through traffic. His departure never ceased to provide amusement for the other flat-dwellers at Kingston House. Knightsbridge, as he deftly lowered his great height and bulk into the car and sped away.

He was the first of the Morrisons to become involved in racing, founding the Fonthill Stud. He had success in his first race when Fellermead won a maiden at Newbury. His best horse bred at Fonthill was the Spree, second in both the fillies' Classics.

It was as a senior steward of the Jockey Club that he gave most to racing. Before beginning his term of office he had at 40 lost courses and racing days — unannounced. Starting at the cheap silver ring he would talk to punters and bookies, making his way through the enclosure until he arrived mid-afternoon in the Stewards' Box. By then he had noted everything worth telling the Jockey Club back in London. Change that was overdue happened in time. Small courses could no longer be treated as private fiefdoms.

Many owners of the great country estates sold or leased out their family seats after the Second World War. Others made deals with the National Trust, content to live out their days in a suite of rooms in a wing of the mansion, or move to the farm manager's or head gardener's house.

It was a couple of decades before the Morrison family made changes, and then, for reasons of convenience. In 1972 the large house at Fonthill, beloved by the Victorians, was pulled down. Lady Margadale took the lead in saying it was no longer practical. A modern Georgian-style house, using much of the stone of the old house, replaced it after the usual kerfuffle. The Department of the Environment, encouraged by amenity societies, prepared a preservation order. They put it on the wrong house on the estate (some six houses on the estate carry the prefix Fonthill).

As confusion reigned the old house built by Hugh Morrison at the turn of the century was reduced to ruins. Questioned about the episode at the time Margadale said: "I can't help it if a government department gets the wrong house."

Margadale was Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire for 14 years, until reaching the age limit of 75. At different times he was Honorary Colonel of the Royal Yeomanry Regiment, chairman of the British Field Sports Society, president of Smithfield, and president of the Royal Bath and West Agricultural Society.

His peerage, as Lord Margadale, came in Sir Alec Douglas-Home's Dissolution Honours List and is hereditary. The eldest son, James Morrison, now inherits the barony. He and his brother, Sir Charles Morrison, and his sister, Mary Morrison, a Lady of the Bedchamber to the Queen, survive their father, his youngest son, Sir Peter Morrison, having died in July last year.

LAURENCE MARKS

Laurence Marks, journalist, died of cancer on May 24 aged 67. He was born in East Finchley, north London, on January 26, 1929.

LAURENCE MARKS was one of Fleet Street's unsung heroes. He was employed by several newspapers but spent

most of his career on *The Observer*, for which he worked from 1968 to 1994. He was a classic all-rounder, who could turn his hand to almost anything — and frequently did when an urgent story broke close to deadline.

He loved writing about the arts, particularly architecture, but the form for which he will

be best remembered by his fellow-journalists is the profile. *The Observer* profile — in the 1980s complete with a Marc caricature — was long considered to be one of the paper's most distinguished features (it was David Astor, after all, who introduced the genre into British journalism in the 1940s). And it was

Laurence Marks who wrote the highest proportion of them during his long career with the paper.

The format suited him perfectly, not least because it carried no byline. Marks abhorred the limelight, operating in a world of his own which remained a mystery to most of his colleagues. He

combined scholarly with great energy and efficiency; it was impossible to tell whether he had turned round the profile in two weeks or two days (frequently the latter), so polished and informative was the final result.

Marks was a man of paradoxes — a loner who appeared remote and forbidding, yet was keenly interested in people, as was apparent from his profiles. He was intensely bookish, and liked nothing better than reading up on a subject in the British Library, but his interrogatory technique, as he poured over his half-moon spectacles with a quizzical half-smile, was as crisp and effective as a detective's and a model for any aspiring journalist. He was also a great stylist.

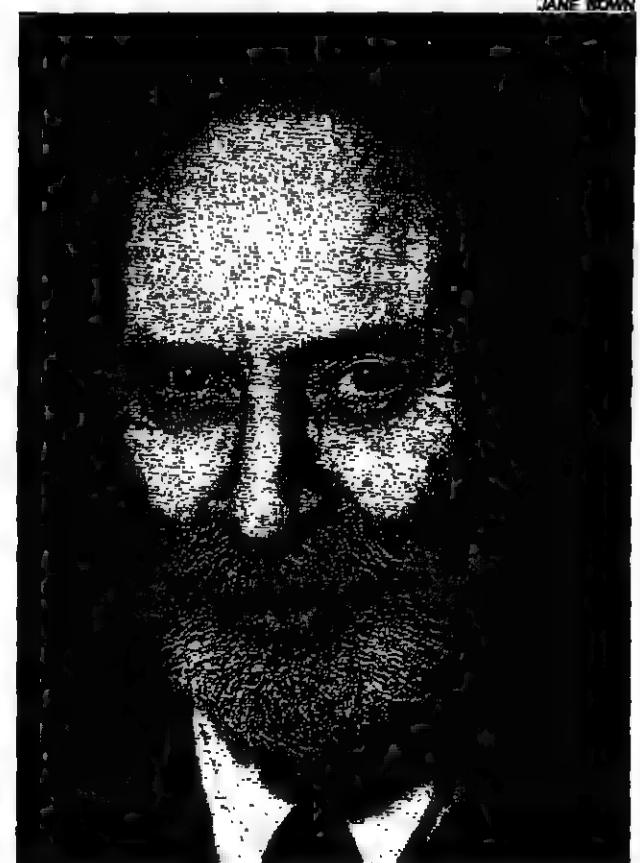
Profiling Sir Isaiah Berlin for his eightieth birthday in 1989, Marks wrote: "He is the embodiment of the Oxford spirit: dispassionate, eclectic, undogmatic, elegant in expression." The description could equally well have been applied to Marks, an Oxford man, too, though one who would have shuddered to be mentioned in the same breath as one of his great heroes.

He was born into a north London Jewish family, the eldest of four children. (Although not religious, Marks retained a keen interest all his life in Judaism and the architecture of Jerusalem in the period of the British Mandate.) When his parents separated and his father, a small

businessman, left home, he became something of a father figure to his two younger siblings. He was evacuated to Devon during the war, returning to the capital to complete his secondary education at City of London School, and going on to Lincoln College, Oxford, where he read law. For his National Service, he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery.

After a brief stint in advertising, he decided that journalism was his real métier and joined the *Oxford Mail*. He moved on to the London *Evening Standard*, where he edited the Londoner's Diary, a fact which astonished his later colleagues, as anyone less interested in partygoing and the doings of smart society would have been hard to find. He then went to *The Sunday Times* but, typically, left over a matter of principle. *The Observer* was happy to snap him up and it was swiftly apparent that newspaper and writer were well matched. Initially he had a baptism of fire, being criticised along with his Editor, by the Committee of Privileges for publishing an adverse leak from a parliamentary committee report on the chemical warfare establishment at Porton Down. Only, however, the Labour MP involved, Tam Dalyell, was formally reprimanded by the Speaker.

Although Marks wrote mainly about Britain, he was briefly the paper's Washington correspondent. On his way



home at the end of his tour in 1979, he stopped off in Guadeloupe to cover the G7 meeting there hosted by Giscard d'Estaing and picked up a virulent tropical disease, the after-effects of which blighted him for the rest of his life.

After being retired from *The Observer*, he continued to

write profiles for the *Independent on Sunday*, although pained that the newspaper's style dictated that they must bear his byline. He also contributed articles on architecture to *The Spectator*.

He never married and is survived by his two sisters and a brother.

THE TYRANNY OF BIRDS.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

No bird-lover should live in the country. In towns one dreams of the song of birds and sighs for the chance to watch their little ways. When we lived in London we longed for those delights and watched the sparrows destroying the buds of our one aspen-like bush: the fat, possessive pigeons scruttling in St. Paul's Churchyard; or the wizard man who sat in Hyde Park covered with birds which fed from his hands. He seemed happy, but this can only have been because he was free to leave Hyde Park and the tyranny of birds when he pleased.

Here, in the country, we are bullied by birds and cannot escape them. In a moment of optimism we built a loggia on the south side of our house, hoping to sun ourselves therein. But, before the summer came, two swallows took possession of it and built their nest up in its rafters and there hatched out their eggs. Whenever we came out into the loggia the birds flew out in terror. If we arranged ourselves comfortably there in cushioned chairs, the mother swallow harassed our hearts by flying distractedly to the entrance and skimming away again, returning in a few seconds, with her mate to strengthen her resolution, only to waver outside and dart

ON THIS DAY

May 29, 1928

A nature article, typical of some of the writing prewar, it has a touch of anthropomorphism which some readers may find a little irritating.

away with a piteous squeal of protest. ... Always the swallows won. We sat in the loggia as intruders or we retired indoors feeling like brutes. We grew so long for the moment when the young swallows should be fledged and fly away; but, hardly had this happened when those same endeavouring birds decided to begin all over again. The year was young as yet there was ample time to bring up another family. Clearly we were not to use our loggia that summer.

Another pair of swallows, mentally deficient, as I believe, started to build a nest across the hinge of an out-house where chicken-food was stored. Every day when the

door was opened their work was destroyed, but they patiently and sorrowfully persisted, until we were obliged to give orders that the door be left permanently open — risking the theft of forage — for the convenience of these half-wits, who eventually built a beautiful little nest in the safe interior of the shed.

Every morning these four parent birds woke me at sunrise by perching on the trough above my window and exchanging interminable family gossip.

The loggia being banned, we sought shelter under the trees by the pool in our orchard, hoping — more fools we! — to enjoy the peace of our garden. But we soon discovered that a pair of moorhens had taken possession of our pool, had built a nest among the yellow iris and hatched out seven promising balls of black fluff. Our appearance disturbed the proud mamma in the act of teaching her progeny to "walk the plank" in procession, a spear of iris foliage having been broken down by her to enable them more easily to reach the water. At sight of us there was a sudden panic. James and Gerald overbalanced and fell into the water; Patricia and Geraldine rushed back into the nest; mamma dove into the rushes with Richard, Jezmina and Charles; and papa, having a hatred of domestic scenes, retired precipitately to his study under the bank. ...

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The children's tales as yet untold

On May 17 the classic Fleet Street disclaimer — "The Daily Mail makes no apology" — introduced a story that the paper called "among the most shocking you'll ever read". It wasn't, of course, but horrible enough to warrant a passing over: the details of the abduction, rape and murder of nine-year-old Daniel Handley.

Murder is an old story, but child sexual abuse is not. It is that rare commodity: new news. The discovery that vulnerable children have been sexually exploited by those entrusted with their care must rank as the greatest story never told.

Why have we been so blind? Knowing what we do now, for us to see on the television news the charming, half-smiling children's home in Wrexham is unbearable. You put yourself in the place of those adolescents being driven up the drive through spacious grounds, thinking, "Everything's going to be all right now." You then think of what lay waiting within — with punishment for trying to run away.

The horror makes you want to rewrite Dickens — if not the whole of 19th-century children's literature. Dickens convinced us that children in care suffered no worse than the refusal of a second bowl of porridge. The orphaned Jane Eyre suffered no more than a book thrown at her by her bullying male cousin. And Huckleberry Finn floated down the Mississippi unmolested by the two old rogues into whose clutches he had fallen.

The prettifying of what can happen to children has been a massive, collective act of cultural censorship. Walk through the National Gallery or read the world's great books and you find depictions of the rape of women, but none of children. The scale of the taboo is all the more staggering when you realise that the use of children for sexual gratification has been going on since the dawn of time.

The greatest censor of all may have been the man who discovered childhood sexuality, Sigmund Freud. The most damning charge laid against him today is that he doctored the truth: confronted with too many tales of fathers entering daughters' bedrooms, he dismissed them as female fantasies.

Don't think the censorship is over. Next month the Secretary of State for Wales, William Hague, will sit down with the five new authorities which have replaced Cwyd County Council to try to publish the long-secret report on 21 years of child abuse at children's homes in north Wales. The report, commissioned by Cwyd, is said to expose one of the worst abuse scandals of the century, but it has been withheld from the public. All we know is that at least four people are already in jail for sexual assaults. It is not just prudishness that keeps the

ugly news out of the papers. Convictions of the guilty are swiftly followed by insurance claims against their employers. Staffordshire County Council's insurers have paid out £1.7 million in compensation to the victims of some of its social workers' unusual punishments.

And, of course, accusations may not be true. False Memory Syndrome is a sorry by-product of the awakening of the adult-child sexual relations. People recover memories of what never happened, just as — another by-product — over-zealous social workers detect non-existent symptoms and misinterpret hearsay.

These secondary consequences must be resisted. But they must not disguise the ugly truth upon which the late 20th century has belatedly stumbled: that a range of evils from paedophilia to incest is far more common than was ever realised.

When did the unspeakable become printable? Possibly the publication of *Lolita* in 1955 put the description of paedophilia before the public and Nabokov succeeded where Freud failed in daring to announce that children have sexual desires too.

It was she who seduced me," says the astonished paedophile Humbert Humbert. The Moors murders in the early 1960s certainly forced the issue before readers' eyes. And when Esther Rantzen launched her *ChildLine* in 1986, she found it swamped by calls from children in distress.

No one can argue that this new crime is cooked up by the media to sell newspapers. Very few people like to read about it, but the stories are not going to go away. The spread of the Internet with its uncontrollable possibilities for adults to get at children, even if only electronically, raises the problem to a new dimension.

Some good must come out of this exposure. We can now see that the rise of divorce brings new dangers into the home. Young girls are far more at risk from the sexual attentions of mother's boyfriend than from their own father. We can now voice at the sexual content of those terrible *Safeway* commercials showing tiny children courting like adults. And new stories like that of the girl of nine having an abortion should put an end to pious pleas for a return to innocence.

There never was any innocence. Childhood, it has been observed, was a 19th-century invention. Children have always been prisoners of their parents or of whomever looks after them. The recognition that this vulnerability includes access to their private regions makes for appalling reading. But it is also children's best hope of protection at last.



BRENDA MADDOX

The power behind the throne

THE talk at the Mirror Group's Canary Wharf headquarters as chief executive David Montgomery appears to be taking a less hands-on role is focusing on the seemingly unstoppable comeback of Kelvin MacKenzie, head of the company's cable channel Live TV.

Not only has he installed his protégé Piers Morgan in the Editor's chair at *The Daily Mirror*, but as the most vociferous member of the jury for the prestigious Newspaper Industry Awards in March, the former Sun Editor is also credited with helping former People Editor Bridget Rowe to win the prizes for National Newspaper of the Year and Sunday Newspaper of the Year. He went on to support her promotion to MD of *The People* and *Sunday Mirror*.

It is not quite clear yet what he makes of *The Independent's* new Editor Andrew Marr, although he has been heard to mutter something about the paper becoming "a bit studenty". MacKenzie is



Powerful: MacKenzie

now leading Mirror Group's joint bid with Carlton Television for the Premiership football rights.

Despite all his extra work, he appears to have lost nothing of his legendary humour. He greeted a recent arrival at the company with two handshakes. One, he explained, was to say hello. The second was just in case the executive got fired on a Friday evening and he was not around to say

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES



Amanda Root and Ciaran Hinds were deemed too demure to attract US audiences

goodbye. Shortly afterwards the hapless manager made an abrupt exit from the company — at around 6pm on a Friday.

They may be commemorating 50 years of *Woman's Hour* and they may be celebrating "powerful" women past and present in their specially produced pack of *Woman's Hour* playing cards, but noticeably absent from the deck is Liz Forgan, the former managing director of Network Radio BBC. She has been overlooked in favour of an eclectic and some would say random, mixture of women. "We didn't want it to be too internal," a Radio 4 spokeswoman said. Nonetheless, the matter of choice seems to have remained very internal indeed. One of the Aces — the "best women ever" — is Billie Holiday, in strange company with Queen Elizabeth I, Simone de Beauvoir and Jane Austen.

Sally Feldman, one of the programme's editors, thinks Billie is absolutely marvellous. "I absolutely love her," she says. "So we had to put her in." Quite.

Save our men

CHRIS TARRANT, the Capital Radio breakfast presenter and TV host, has fallen foul of the UK Men's Movement, self-styled protectors of the nation's males. The television show *Man O'Man*, which Mr Tarrant presents, has been denounced by the organisation as "appalling sexist and demeaning", not to mention "shambolic".

Hot Austen

WHO ARE that charming and attractive couple on the cover of the American video version of *Persuasion*? One

thing is for sure, they are not the BBC stars of the series. Ciaran Hinds and Amanda Root. Clearly not considering them attractive enough for the American public, the Stateside version has dropped the demure Hinds and Root and replaced them with two little-known and rather more glamorous models posing in provocative fashion as Austen's hero and heroine.

A spokeswoman for BBC Worldwide said it had no rights to video sales of *Persuasion* in the US and the Americans could do what they liked with the cover. "I guess it makes it a little more seductive to us over here," explained a spokeswoman for Columbia Tristar in California.

Moving fronts

IS GMTV's chirrupy weather girl Sally Meen to be lured away from her brollybillies slot on the breakfast channel? Headhunters for the 24-hour

letter to the TV network heads and the Broadcasting Standards Council, "is largely based on the habitual humiliation and demeaning of men for the sole purpose of entertaining, amusing and titillating women."

Richard Hearn, producer of *Man O'Man*, said he had sent a stern letter to the group. "There are an awful lot of men left in this country who think women should stay in the kitchen," he said. "Both Chris and I think it's good clean family entertainment..."

Man in trouble: Tarrant

Wyatt, who founded WJW with Spectator deputy editor Anne McElvoy, admits however that the new organisation has been created as a reaction against the over-earnestness and political correctness of some women's groups in recent years.



Man in trouble: Tarrant

Weather Channel on cable, which launches on Friday, have approached her to help to front the station. However, the cable company says it's her geography degree as much as her blonde appeal that has lured them in her direction. "We are looking for people with a serious meteorological background," a spokeswoman said earnestly. *Bien sur.*

Owen goal

MORE rumblings of discontent at the beleaguered *Sunday Business*, where some staff were surprised on Sunday to read their Editor's personal endorsement of the socialist businessman Owen Oyston, who was convicted of rape last week.

Oyston, incidentally, helped the paper out in its early days with a lifesaving "loan" of £200,000. The homely by Editor, Tom Rubythorn — which concluded with the rousing words "...there is one thing I know for sure, Owen Oyston is not and has never been a rapist, whatever a jury might have said" — was prepared in secrecy. Senior journalists were told that the pages were to be filled by a "marketing promotion" and so knew nothing about it until the paper hit the newsstands. Many hardened chaps, who have been prepared to soldier on at the paper despite the fact that they have not received all of their May salaries, are now considering resigning in protest.

Assistant editor of The Spectator Petronella Wyatt denies categorically that her new dining club, *Women Against Journalism*, has been formed in reaction to the crusading feminist organisation *Women In Journalism*, despite the similarity in the two groups' names.

"It is a complete coincidence that the names are so much alike," she insists. Of course it is.

Wyatt, who founded WJW with Spectator deputy editor Anne McElvoy, admits however that the new organisation has been created as a reaction against the over-earnestness and political correctness of some women's groups in recent years.

J Sainsbury now that it's being trounced by Tesco. Marketers at a recent conference were gobsmacked, for example, to hear Sainsbury's deputy chairman Tom Vyner talk of the need for more honest communications between manufacturers and retailers — not things Sainsbury's feared buyers are renowned for.

But old attitudes die hard. Mr Vyner peppered his contribution with references to Wellington and Napoleon, while Tesco's Graham Booth joked about elephants — a contrast Mr Booth pointed out.

ALAN MITCHELL



The Pope: raising cash

What chance do mere mortal marketers have when the great and the good start invading their patch? Last week the Prince of Wales launched a Prince's Trust credit card which offers a killer marketing combination: the status of royalty, the satisfaction of doing good (every new card generates cash for the Prince's youth charity) plus a bargain — no annual fee and an APR of 18.9 per cent.

But Charles could find himself trumped by no less than Pope John Paul II. From June he'll be deploying the power of the Vatican brand and the

Heaven is...pitching for the Vatican

imagery of the Roman Catholic Church to market its message — and raise a little cash.

Jewel in the crown is a Vatican Library licensing and merchandising programme that will put its repertoire of paintings, frescoes and buildings on household objects and clothes around the globe.

Father Leonard Boyle, the library director, denies rumours that Gucci and Armani will soon be sporting Vatican motifs at heavenly margins.

But, he admits, a range of Vatican-inspired costume jewellery has already been particularly successful.

And that's only the beginning, as UK design agencies have discovered. They've been receiving phone calls from an organisation called the Committee for the Jubilee Inviting them to pitch for a project called AD 2000. The brief: to conjure up a logo which inspires the world's populace to celebrate the true meaning

of the millennium. Agencies, it appears, will be expected to do the work for free as, it is subtly hinted, their rewards will come in the next life.

JUST what is going on at BT? A year ago it appointed Mike Biden, a man from Mars (the corporation, not the planet), to dazzle us with the joys of modern telephony.

By January Mr Biden was out and BT was asserting that its vast personal communica-

tions division no longer needed a marketing director. Charlotte Pinder, a marketing hot-shot brought in from Pepsi, walked out on May 7.

Now BT has appointed a new marketing director: Mike Wagner. Talk of expanding the telecoms market has evaporated, and chunks of BT's £180 million residential marketing budget have been switched from advertising into direct mail.

Notwithstanding Mr Wag-

ner's appointment, insiders now believe BT's marketing is effectively controlled by the Canadian direct marketing consultant Ed Carter.

Where such shenanigans leave BT's "It's Good to Talk" ad campaign is anybody's guess. But most BT watchers are speechless.

THE grocery industry is full of rumours of a cultural sea-change said to be sweeping through the once-arrogant

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Applications are invited for the post of Senior Information Officer (Grade 7) in the Parliament Office, House of Lords, to start work in October.

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Applicants should preferably have a degree or equivalent and must have a high degree of experience in the media or in public relations. A good working knowledge of the written media would be a particular advantage.

The salary is in the range £28,311 - £39,507 per annum. Staff of the House are not civil servants, but pay and conditions of service are broadly in line with those of the Civil Service.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Establishment Office, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW (Tel: 0171 319 2338 (answering machine)). Completed forms to be returned by 17 June 1996. It is expected that interviews will be held in the week beginning 8 July.

If you have not heard from us by the middle of July you must assume you have not been shortlisted for interview.

هكذا من الاجل

Paper tigers... office tyrants?

Is the new generation of hire-and-fire editors what our newspapers need in the Nineties?

THE case of Graham Jones, the 44-year-old assistant editor (news) of the *Sunday Express*, who was "tossed aside like a toffee wrapper", could become a precedent for Fleet Street. Although the industrial tribunal found that there had been no sexual discrimination, the chairman, Ian Lamb, condemned the hire-and-fire policy of Express Group Newspapers. They had already admitted unfair dismissal, and will have to pay compensation.

Mr Lamb told the Editor of the *Sunday Express*, Sue Douglas, that she had been "hiring and firing with complete disregard for the laws or good employment practice... This dismissal had no rhyme or reason except the personal preference of Ms Douglas... it was utterly irrational and whimsical". She considered that Mr Jones was just not a person she wanted to work with. "If Sue Douglas were the only editor to behave in this way, that would merely be another black mark for the *Sunday Express*, a newspaper whose catastrophic fall in circulation Mr Douglas is trying to halt. Yet it is notorious that Fleet Street is now divided into two schools. There are editors who manage their staff reasonably and consistently, do not fire without reason and consideration, and try to build their professional teams with care over time. And there are the other editors whose firings are indeed "irrational and whimsical".

There is, I think, an important distinction to be made between two types of journalist. A minority of journalists are in the position of actors on stage; we perform the play as the public sees it. The readers of the newspapers come to know our names, and either like or dislike what we write. Such named journalists have their advantages. Because we are known as individuals, we are also known to the editors of other newspapers, and can change papers relatively easily. If we have a following among readers, that tends to be reflected in our pay. We have good access to the people we write about because they have read our pieces.

These advantages are naturally compensated for by our being essentially the tubes of colour in the editor's paintbox. He has to balance his paper; he has to hold his readers' attention; he has to keep his paper looking fresh. One of



Max Hastings, of the *Evening Standard*, and Sue Douglas, of the *Sunday Express*, both enjoy reputations as hire-and-fire editors. Ms Douglas's action was called "whimsical"



the ways in which he will achieve this is by bringing in new named writers, with new opinions and ideas. And if new writers are brought in, old writers must sometimes go out. An editor who changes his named writers may well expect them to pop up elsewhere, but he must be free to make the choice. If one follows the career of a first-class columnist like Auberon Waugh, one can see that both he and the newspapers which have employed him have benefited from this merry-go-round.

An editor who never changed anybody would therefore not be doing his job, and his readers would soon notice. But the named writers, the actors who appear on stage, are a minority of journalists. The majority are not known individually to their readers, though they may be doing very important jobs on the newspaper. They are professionals, and one of their skills is to respond to the policies of the editor, who has the ultimate responsibility for judging what his readers will want.

Mr Jones had worked on the



WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Sunday Express for seven years, for 14 or even 16-hour days by his own account. During that time the newspaper's circulation had indeed fallen, but as assistant editor (news) he could hardly be held responsible for that. Ms Douglas fired him after she had been Editor for a fortnight. In that time she could hardly have formulated her own policies, let alone been able to determine whether Mr Jones could carry them out. The assistant editor (news) may well have his own views on the news management of the paper; he may influence it;

he does not decide it. The editor does that. If Ms Douglas wanted headless bodies, it would have been Mr Jones's job to produce them; if she wanted Tory MPs in shock horror sleaze, it would have been Mr Jones's job to exhumate some of that; if she wanted to lead the paper on a quarter point fall in the yen/dollar exchange rate, that would have become Mr Jones's business as well. But she had not waited to see whether he could produce the sort of news stories she wanted; she fired him partly because he had been around under her predecessor, and had then provided the news stories which her predecessor had asked for. That was "irrational and whimsical".

The broad principle must be that journalists should be judged on their professional performance. The editor will in the end be judged by the success of the newspaper — it is a market test: the named writer will be judged by the appeal to the reader of his or her writing; the news editor, the sub-editor or the anonymous

reporter should be judged on the ability to respond to the needs of the newspaper as the editor perceives them. In my own experience on *The Times*, good professionals are entirely willing, and pleased, to take coherent direction from their editor, and are only disappointed if they do not get it.

Sometimes newspapers are overmanned, and the staff has to be trimmed down, but that

is a different question. Overmanning is not only commercially wasteful, but is bad for the editorial process as such. There is a certain tempo which runs through a newspaper: one of the functions of the editor, like the conductor of an orchestra, is to set the tempo. If there are too many staff, everyone will be working at reduced pressure, and the tempo will slacken. If one compares the five London

broadsheets at present, the most highly manned for its function is the *Financial Times*, while *The Independent* has been through savage staff cuts, made inevitable because of heavy losses of money. The tempo of *The Independent* is much quicker than that of the *Financial Times*, and it leaves the impression of a more tautly edited newspaper. The editorial and commercial benefits of a stable policy

are illustrated in the Associated Newspapers Group, the *Daily Mail*, *The Mail on Sunday* and the *Evening Standard*. This group now dominates the mid-market in the way that the Express Group did in the 1940s and 1950s, when Lord Beaverbrook was the proprietor. In 1971 Lord Rothermere became the chairman of Associated Newspapers. In the same year Sir David English became Editor of the *Daily Mail*. They are still running the group, 25 years later, and they have had a surprisingly stable team of senior editors, who have mostly pursued stable policies of professional employment.

The exception among their editors has been Max Hastings, the still comparatively new Editor of the *Evening Standard*. He enjoyed the reputation of being a "hire-and-fire" Editor at *The Daily Telegraph*, and he seems to have fired people quite freely when he went to the *Evening Standard*. There he inherited an editorial team which had been built up by Paul Dacre, now Editor of the *Daily Mail*, and Stewart Steven, who had previously edited *The Mail on Sunday*.

I have read the *Evening Standard* throughout this period, as most Londoners do: Max Hastings seems not yet to have been able to rebuild a staff as good as the one he inherited and partially dispersed. As a result his *Evening Standard* has so far been a duller newspaper than Dacre's or Steven's. In the 1970s, the trade unions were far too strong in Fleet Street, including the National Union of Journalists itself. That led to *The Times* stoppage of 1978 and subsequently to the move to Wapping, which saved the commercial future of the whole London press. The balance of power has now swung the other way. That has led some editors to adopt a macho or virago approach to hiring and firing. Such editors disrupt the professional teams on which successful editorial work depends. At worst they can become petty office tyrants ruling frightened courts in a spirit of personal vanity. Apart from anything else, that is not good for the quality of their newspapers.

Mad cows and Englishmen hit out in the Mail and Sun

We won the war in 1945, we won the World Cup in 1966 but we still hate the Germans, don't we? Any German in Britain last week could have been forgiven for thinking so.

When John Major summoned Britain to war with Europe, the Tory tabloids instantly donned battle gear and went over the top — in both senses of the phrase. "Major shows bulls at last" roared *The Sun*. "Major goes to war at last" said the *Daily Mail*. (Note that impatient "at last" in both.) "Major speaks for Britain" said the *Daily Express*, showing the Prime Minister against the Union Jack.

The Sun occupied its usual position in the leading tank. Against a picture of Winston Churchill, Britain's biggest-selling daily launched a buy-British crusade urging Britain to "S-hun" German food and drink.

Joining forces with the Asda supermarket chain, it offered readers two free British beefburgers as well as an "I'm Backing British Beef" car-sticker. It also proposed 20 ways to hit back at the Europeans, including a boycott of German beer, Mercedes cars and Hugo Boss clothes.

Just behind, in the second tank, was the increasingly belligerent *Daily Express*, which offered a guide to how to say "no" — a vital word for Euro-sceptics and their language.



There were unusually warm endorsements for Mr Major from the *Daily Mail* and *The Daily Telegraph*, although both were dubious about the strength of his resolution. "If after one bout of stage-managed defiance at Florence his boldness shrivels with punctured braggadocio, he will bear the blame and the shame," said the *Mail*. According to *The Daily Telegraph*: "If this gamble pays off, the electoral rewards will be great. If it fails, the end is night... this has become a battle that [the Government] cannot afford to lose."

Depending on your point of view, all this speaking for England is either exhilarating — damn the Krauts — or deeply shaming, an outburst of xenophobia in papers read by more than 20 million readers a day.

It was John Williams from the *Daily Mirror* who described most succinctly the reaction of the ashamed. This was not a war about beef, but about Germans, he argued. A sinister phrase had started to appear among the Euro-sceptics and their media cheerleaders. They

called the EU "the Fourth Reich", implying that Helmut Kohl was succeeding where the Luftwaffe failed. "This is a wicked distortion. Let's be blunter still. It is evil," said Mr Williams.

Under its new Editor, Andrew Marr, *The Independent* devoted most of its front page to a commentary under the sardonic headline, "Oh what a lovely war!" Two telling arguments were put by John Lichfield. If the BSE epidemic had occurred in France, a child could have composed the likely *Daily Mail* splash: "EU orders Britons to eat killer meat." Many on the Continent, moreover, believe that eating British — or any — beef might (just might) rot the brains of their children. "And who originally said so? The British Government and the British press."

Yet quite the most scornful, damning and magisterial indictment of Mr Major appeared neither in a tabloid nor a paper of the Left, but in *The Times*, where William Rees-Mogg was in Swiftian mode. Europe was not going to lift the beef ban until it was known whether or not BSE was infectious, he ar-

gued. Nor, if the situation was reversed, would Britain import European beef. Mr Major was exposing himself to ridicule by deploying Britain's ultimate negotiating weapon to fight for those three great issues of state: Tallow, Gelatin and Semen.

If the *Daily Mail* and *Daily Express* thought this spasm of hysteria showed that the Government had recovered the will to govern, they were wrong. "The half-empty chair is the symbol of a half-dead Government."

When editors speak for England they raise the question whether they lead or follow public opinion. According to a poll in *The Observer*, William Rees-Mogg may be closer to the nation's pulse. Even after all the tabloid propaganda, it showed that 51 per cent of the British blame Mr Major's Government for the BSE crisis rather than the EU.

Theo Koll, who represents Germany's ZDF television station in London and is a lifelong Anglophile, was a sadder man last week. He finds that Britain's constant hostility to Germany is beginning to get under his skin. What worries him most is that the anti-European, anti-German instincts unleashed by Mr Major — and so enthusiastically endorsed by most of the tabloids — will poison the minds of yet another generation of Britons.

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SPORT 42-48

Michael Jordan names his price: \$18m a season

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MAY 29 1996

Sale of 3i stake fuels talk of NatWest buyback

By Patricia Tehan
Banking Correspondent

SPECULATION that NatWest is planning a £1 billion share buyback intensified yesterday when it revealed it was considering the £460 million sale of its shares in 3i, the venture capital firm.

The news sent 3i shares down 15p to 452p last night, while NatWest's shares closed 2p higher at 619p. Analysts said a share buyback of between £800 million and £1 billion, around the time of NatWest's interim results in July, was now a distinct possibility. There was also speculation yesterday that the bank might be considering using the funds to help to finance an acquisition, possibly of a life company.

Analysts said the bank is likely to sell at a small discount to the current share price. If it sells its entire 17.7 per cent stake at around 440p, valuing the shares at £460 million, it will make a profit of about £220 million over the value at which the shares are held in the balance sheet.

The shares are likely to be sold in the middle of next month, after the publication of 3i's results for the year to March 31 next week. The sale will be through a placing with institutional investors, although private investors will be able to apply for shares through financial intermediaries.

NatWest Securities and de Zoete & Bevan have been appointed brokers to the sale, with NatWest Securities coordinating the bookbuilding process.

A NatWest spokesman said the 3i shareholding "has been a very successful investment for us, but it is not a strategic holding. We have our own successful venture capital operation." He said the bank felt that this was the right time to realise the value of the stake.

He added that the bank's focus had altered after the decision last year to sell its US subsidiary, NatWest Bancorp. The \$3.5 billion sale to Fleet Financial was completed at the beginning of the month. NatWest

has also announced plans to acquire Gartmore, the fund manager, for £472 million.

The spokesman said Derek Wanless, NatWest's chief executive, had indicated that the bank was now concentrating on developing its UK financial services business, building NatWest Markets International and expanding its private banking arm. Given this, he said, the bank made "a free standing decision" to sell the 3i stake, given the value it can now extract from the holding.

3i said that it welcomed the proposed sale, "which would increase the liquidity of the company's equity and would provide a

good opportunity to attract new shareholders". The company was founded more than 50 years ago by the banks. The banks sold just under 50 per cent of their shares when 3i was floated in July 1994 at 272p a share.

NatWest's decision to sell follows the sale of 3i shareholdings last June by the Bank of England, Midland, Barclays and Lloyds and a further sale by Midland in January. If it sells its entire stake, NatWest Markets will continue to have an interest in 6.8 per cent of shares, held by its fund management operations.

John Melbourne, deputy chief executive of NatWest, is expected to retain his seat on the 3i's board.

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3760.2	(+8.1)
Yield	4.02%	
FT-SE All share	1868.39	(+4.02)
Nikkei	21844.53	(+44.77)
DAX	2722.22	(-40.64)
S&P Composite	673.62	(-4.86)

Federal Funds	5.25%	(5.25%)
Long Bond	8.00%	(8.00%)
Yield	6.65%	(6.64%)

3-month Libor	6.75%	(6.75%)
6-month Libor	7.00%	(7.00%)
9-month Libor	7.25%	(7.25%)
12-month Libor	7.50%	(7.50%)

New York	1.5180	(1.5180)
London	1.5180	(1.5180)
DM	2.3415	(2.3310)
FF	1.2735	(1.2685)
Yen	1.9271	(1.9195)
Yen	164.26	(162.85)
£ Index	86.1	(84.6)

DM	1.5478	(1.5482)
FF	1.2735	(1.2685)
S&P	673.62	(673.62)
Yen	164.26	(162.85)
£ Index	86.1	(84.6)

Tokyo close	Yen 108.30	
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Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$18.40	(\$18.40)
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London close	\$386.15	(\$386.15)
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* denotes midday trading price

Hostile Scottish Power bid sends water shares soaring

By Christine Buckley

A NEW round of takeovers and mergers in the privatised water sector looks certain after ScottishPower launched a hostile £1.56 billion bid for Southern Water.

Water shares rose sharply amid expectations of similar approaches from electricity and gas companies preparing for intense competition after deregulation of their core markets, due by 1998.

Shares in Wessex Water rose 24p to 332p and Thames Water 17p to 564p, while Yorkshire Water added 53p to 690p and Anglian Water closed 32p higher at 572p.

Southern Water closed 260p higher at 941p, while ScottishPower fell 17p to 319p. Shares in Southern Electric, which is expected to make a rival bid, fell 26p to 726p.

ScottishPower is offering Southern Water shareholders 89.75p per share, comprising 536.34p cash and 128 new ScottishPower shares for every 100 Southern Water shares. There is an alternative

cash offer of 935.7p per share. The cash and shares offer, which marks a 43 per cent premium on Friday's closing price, also promises a price cut for customers. A reduction of 3 per cent - about £7.50 on an annual bill - is offered from April 1998. Such a reduction is two years sooner than any cuts which will be delivered in the next price review set for 2000.

Ian Robinson, chief executive of ScottishPower, said: "It will be easier to market other services to existing customers who are used to a brand identity." But he denied that the positioning secured a strategic stranglehold. "We're not looking to swamp the whole country."

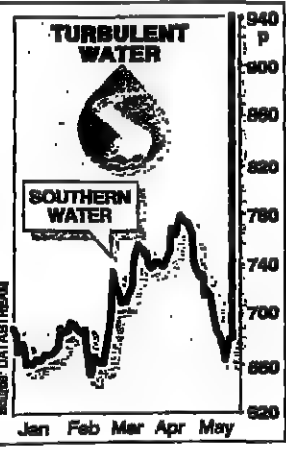
The move, which would make ScottishPower the country's largest multi-utility, serving 5 million households, heralds a long battle for Southern Water. Southern Electric, whose area of operation overlaps with Southern Water, was last night locked in talks which it said it hoped would lead to a recommended offer.

Labour and the Consumers Association criticised the ScottishPower bid. John Birt, shadow energy minister, said: "This is another stage in the wave of takeovers, sales and bid speculation from which shareholders have profited and the consumer has been merely an afterthought."

Last year ScottishPower acquired Manweb, the regional electricity company serving Merseyside and parts of North Wales, for £1.1 billion. Southern Water, which serves 1.8 million households, will take part in the next round of competition in domestic gas



Power play: Ian Russell, finance director of ScottishPower, left, and Ian Robinson, chief executive, yesterday



Scottish company's high-street retailing outlets, through which it will market both electricity and gas.

The main generators for England and Wales - National Power and PowerGen - are certain to be reassessing their position after their attempts to expand into electricity supply were both blocked

by the Government last month. A takeover of a water company would provide easy access to homes to which other services can then be marketed.

The Office of Water Regulation and its electricity counterpart will in the next few days issue a joint consultation paper on the bid. But it is unlikely either will raise

objections.

Southern Electric would seek to fuse more services and form tighter physical links with Southern Water, resulting in substantial job losses. Southern Water has advised shareholders to take no action until terms of an offer by Southern Electric are made public.

Major to extol virtues of Europe in video for CBI

By Oliver August

THE Government's beef war with Europe is set to embarrass the CBI over a European roadshow that it is to launch in co-operation with John Major next week. The Prime Minister is scheduled to appear in a promotional video extolling the benefits of European integration for business.

The video will be shown at a travelling exhibition called Business in Europe Week and is part of a year-long CBI campaign for a more positive attitude towards European integration. Video producers

and organisers of the £300,000 campaign are bewildered by Mr Major's intention to block all progress in the EU. Mr Major's agreement to present the CBI video would appear to indicate that he advocates both co-operation and non-cooperation in Europe.

Mr Major's appearance at the launch is to be filmed and inserted into the video, which will be shown in Bristol, Edinburgh, Birmingham and Leeds early next month.

This latest rift has exposed growing differences over Europe between the Government and many leading businessmen. While the Government has continually toughened its stance, the CBI is anxious to emphasise the potential benefits of European integration.

Niall FitzGerald, vice-chairman of Unilever and chairman of the CBI's Europe committee, said: "This campaign is all about putting business interests back at the top of the agenda. It will provide the objective, factual information on European issues that companies want."

Camelot set to announce £70m profits

CAMELOT, the company that runs the National Lottery, is set to announce record pre-tax profits of around £70 million next week.

While the obvious winners are Camelot's shareholders - Cadbury Schweppes, De La Rue, ICL, GTECH and Racal Electronics - there are many other beneficiaries from the weekly lottery spend of up to £90 million. BT bills Camelot £11 million a year for servicing the network of 22,000 online terminals, and that is set to rise as the number of terminals increases.

Lottery millionaires, page 29

Barings executive banned over Leeson illegal deal

By Robert Miller

A FORMER senior executive of Barings was yesterday found guilty by a senior City watchdog of failing to adequately investigate a bogus £50 million trade carried out by Nick Leeson and of seeking to persuade auditors "to exclude all reference to it from the audit management letter".

Geoffrey Broadhurst, head of group finance at Barings at the time of the £860 million crash, was removed from the registers of directors and managers by the Securities and Futures Authority, the regula-

tor for brokers and futures dealers, for his role in failing to monitor properly Leeson's fraudulent trading activities. The SFA said Mr Broadhurst, who was also ordered to pay £10,000 costs, did not "understand, control and reconcile the provision of funding" to Barings (Futures) Singapore nor did he properly investigate and act upon the bogus £50 million trade with SLK, a New York brokerage firm.

Other senior executives with the merchant bank at the time last year's crash are understood to be appealing against the SFA findings and proposed disciplinary actions. No announcement has yet been made in relation to Ron Baker, former head of Barings financial products group, and Mary Wale, who was in charge of equity financial products.

James Bax, one of Leeson's immediate bosses in Barings's Singapore office and whose role was also under investigation by the SFA, is now believed to be back in the UK.

Pennington, page 27

British Energy's liabilities criticised

By Paul Durman

THE start of the £4 million advertising campaign to sell shares in British Energy, the company formed around the UK's newest nuclear power stations, was yesterday greeted by accusations that the Government has grossly underestimated the firm's long-term liabilities.

Environmental groups joined with the Labour Party to criticise the British Energy sale, the last big privatisation before the election, as a bad deal for the taxpayer. The company's estimated stock market value, of between £1.5 billion and £2.1 billion, is much less than the £3 billion cost of building Sizewell B, its pressurised water reactor.

British Energy is putting £16 million a year into a fund to meet the costs of decommissioning power stations at the end of their generating lives. Dr Patrick Green, a senior energy campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said: "Taxpayers are going to end up with a huge bill to clean up the nuclear legacy."

In spite of the uncertainties over long-term costs and nervousness about nuclear safety, many in the City believe British Energy will prove a good bet for investors.

At least 30 per cent of the shares will be available to the public, with more being made available if demand is strong. As with Railtrack, private investors will receive a discount, of about 5 per cent, on the price paid by institutional investors.

The pathfinder prospectus will be published on June 10. Share dealings are expected to begin in mid-July.

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BT to cut business tariffs by £220m

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday launched its most ambitious effort to win back business customers by making across-the-board price cuts that will total £220 million a year.

The reductions will come into effect in July and are likely to be followed by similar cuts next year.

BT's goal is to increase its presence in the business market, where its share has fallen furthest. The company has fewer than half the customers in the City of London, the business market's richest prize.

The £220 million price reduction for business customers will take the total cuts this year to about £400 million, or about £100 million more than the level required by Ofel, the regulator for the telecommunications industry.

Under the Ofel price controls, BT must reduce its overall prices each year by the retail price index, less 7.5 per cent. BT has gone beyond the minimum requirement in an effort to become more competitive in the business sector.

Reductions after mid-1997 will be set by Ofel's new price cap, whose level is to be determined within a couple of weeks.

The next cap may be just as tight as the current one, but it is thought likely that it will cover a narrower range of services.

BT has argued that controls are needed only in areas where it has clear domination, such as residential line rentals.

The company added that the business tariffs will make existing discount packages about 10 per cent cheaper.



Plyu, the plastic containers company, lifted pre-tax profits to £6.9 million from £6.47 million in the year to March 31. The company, whose chief executive is Malcolm Macintyre (pictured, centre, with directors Nicholas Templeton-Ward, left, and Stephen Nobbs), has lifted the total dividend from 7p to 7.35p, with a 5.35p final

Dairy administration threatens 1,000 jobs

By OLIVER AUGUST

ONE thousand jobs came under threat yesterday at Cricket St Thomas Dairies in Somerset after the appointment of an administrator, while elsewhere in the dairy industry the former processing arm of the Milk Marketing Board is expected to announce flotation plans today.

Cricket St Thomas failed to achieve expected efficiency gains and was granted the appointment of administrators at the High Court on Sunday.

Its difficulties were compounded over the last two months as milk sales were depressed after the bovine spongiform encephalopathy

(BSE) scare. The collapse of the milk export market led to a surplus that depressed prices in spite of the lack of scientific evidence linking milk to BSE.

Murdoch McKillop, a partner at Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm, and a joint administrator, said: "At this stage, it is far too early to indicate if the business will be sold or re-constructed but we are hopeful that we will be able to find a way forward. In the meantime, the dairy will be delivering milk to customers as usual."

The Somerset company has an annual turnover of £90 million and employs 400 people at its dairy and 600 at its 16 depots. It supplies milk

and cream products to supermarkets, retailers and on a doorstep delivery service.

Arthur Andersen said the decision to put the dairy into administration meant it would continue to trade as a going concern and provided a realistic prospect of finding a solution to the current difficulties.

The administrator is currently conducting a detailed appraisal of trading and financial prospects.

Mr McKillop said the company had encountered a "serious cash-flow crisis" after plans to consolidate milk production at Cricket St Thomas had proved to be more complex than anticipated. "The

situation is complex and certain on-going issues need to be resolved before we can determine the best way forward for the business," he added.

After unveiling the final results, Dairy Crest, the former processing arm of the now-defunct Milk Marketing Board, is set to seek a stock market listing today, despite the industry's problems with BSE.

Dairy Crest has been considering a flotation for several months and said in early December last year that it was still prepared for a full listing on the London Stock Exchange.

The company is expected to be valued at £200 million.

Tax rush Peps up unit sales

By ROBERT MILLER

A LAST-MINUTE rush of money from investors out to beat the taxman through personal equity plans (Peps) helped unit trust groups to their second successive month of record sales of more than £1 billion.

The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) said yesterday that net retail unit trust sales of £1.1 billion in April, an increase of £72 million on the previous month, were boosted by the £369 million handed over in the first few days of last month prior to the end of the tax year on April 5. Sales of unit trust Peps in April were a shade over £1 billion, compared with £990 million in March and £572 million a year ago.

Funds under management among the 164 unit trust companies managing 1.646 funds rose to £127 billion in April, compared with £121 billion the previous month, while the number of unit-holder accounts at 7.3 million is up one million on a year ago.

Autif said that for the ninth month in succession the UK gilt and fixed-interest sector was the most popular, attracting £230 million of which £209 million was invested in corporate-bond Peps.

Commenting on the latest sales figures, Philip Warland, director-general of Autif, said: "There is little doubt that maturing Tessa money is being invested in better performing vehicles like unit trust Peps."

Net unit trust sales to City institutions were again on the low side, although they returned to a positive net inflow of £19 million against a £64 million outflow the previous month.

Gross unit trust sales of £800 million were "brought down substantially" by a £194 million withdrawal of funds from the Far East, excluding the Japan sector, according to Autif.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

SFO investigates Titan Business Club

THE Serious Fraud Office has launched a preliminary investigation into an international money-making scheme that has attracted £20 million and has been described in Parliament by David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, as "an iniquitous pyramid-selling scam". Files relating to the Titan Business Club and its associate companies in the UK have been passed to the SFO by the Department of Trade and Industry, which has started moves in the High Court to close it down.

The Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, has also offered assistance to the DTI after *The Times* revealed that Titan, which originates in Germany, planned to seek a listing on the Nasdaq stock market in the US. The Titan operation is estimated to have raised £20 million from about 8,000 people since last October.

Power firm targets AIM

INDEPENDENT ENERGY HOLDINGS, which generates and markets electricity direct to customers, is seeking admission to the Alternative Investment Market via a share placing. The placing price is 100p a share, raising £3.2 million and valuing the company at £13.1 million. Share dealings are expected to begin on Friday. Independent Energy has interests in a number of onshore gasfields in the UK from which it can supply gas-fired electricity generators.

Kloeckner group at risk

THE future of Kloeckner-Humboldt-Deutz, the German engineer, hangs in the balance after allegations that executives at a subsidiary concealed losses for years. KHD and Deutsche Bank, the company's largest investor and creditor, held weekend talks to find some way to offset the damage, which KHD said would total "hundreds of millions of marks". Trading in KHD shares was suspended before the Frankfurt stock exchange opened yesterday.

Whitbread invests £105m

WHITBREAD INNS has promised to create more than 2,700 new jobs this year by opening 70 family pubs at a cost of £105 million. A further 52 Brewers Fayre pubs will open, in addition to the 50 set up last year, to expand the chain to more than 330 outlets, while 20 local pubs will be converted into Family Inns. By the end of 1996, almost 25 per cent of Whitbread Inns' 1,650 outlets will have special catering facilities for families, the company said.

Queens Moat warns

STANLEY METCALFE, Queens Moat Houses chairman, gave warning that trading conditions in Continental Europe remain difficult. But he told the annual meeting that overall trading was "satisfactory" during the first part of the year, with the company raising its rooms performance in the UK. The company has made a series of cost efficiencies to help improve its performance in Germany, France and Belgium, where trading remains tough.

Fujitsu leaps 54%

STRONG microchip sales underpinned a 54.1 per cent rise in profits at Fujitsu, Japan's leading computer manufacturer and the parent company of ICL of Britain, to 156.66 billion yen (£980 million) in the year to March 31, on sales 15 per cent higher at ¥3.76 billion. However, declining prices are expected to put pressure on margins in the current year. The company has forecast a fall in profits to ¥140 billion for the year to March 1997 despite a rise in revenue to ¥4.36 billion.

Nissan back in black

NISSAN MOTOR Co, Japan's second-biggest carmaker, returned to profit last year, helped by brisk domestic sales and cost-cutting. In the year to March 31 profits were ¥32.43 billion (£198.7 million), compared with losses of ¥61.07 billion the previous year. The result exceeded Nissan's own prediction of a ¥25 billion profit. Like other major Japanese carmakers, including Toyota, the industry leader, Nissan has cut costs and streamlined its business.

Date set for hearing on cash for BCCI creditors

LIQUIDATORS of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) will go to the High Court on July 15 to seek special arrangements for payments to British creditors, sources familiar with the collapsed bank said yesterday.

BCCI was shut down in 1991 with debts of more than \$12 billion. The liquidators, Deloitte & Touche, declined to comment yesterday, but sources said the need for a court hearing arose because of differences between British and Luxembourg accounting laws.

In Britain, when a firm goes into liquidation, creditors claim the difference between their loans and deposits. In Luxembourg, creditors must repay loans before they can claim for their deposits.

Deloitte & Touche has said the amount paid to creditors is subject to court decisions, but creditors are expected to get about 20 per cent of their claims by the summer.

The National Association of Business Economists (NABE) also predicted that the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, would hold interest rates steady over the next six months, despite high levels of employment and a strong second quarter performance.

The projection was underscored by reports on sales of existing homes and consumer confidence. Home sales unexpectedly rose 0.5 per cent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.22 million units, the second highest rate on record, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), while the Conference Board said its consumer confidence index continued to point to moderate economic growth and spending.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.00	1.84
Austria S	17.44	16.24
Belgium F	51.00	46.70
Canada \$	2.183	2.023
Denmark D	0.750	0.698
Finland Mk	6.59	6.29
France F	7.78	7.13
Germany D	8.51	7.88
Greece Dr	2.40	2.28
Italy L	394	359
Japan Yen	12.28	11.28
Portugal Esc	1.02	0.94
Spain P	5.35	4.70
Sweden Kr	2467	2312
Switzerland F	177.00	161.50
Turkey L	0.590	0.533
USA \$	2.785	2.535
	2.36	2.14
	10.54	9.74
	250.50	232.00
	7.18	6.28
	201.50	188.50
	10.85	10.15
	122.00	114.00
	1.810	1.480

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are of close of trading yesterday.



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Source: Templeton and Datastream

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offer continuing potential for outperformance. TEMIT is proposing a Placing and Offer of 'C' Shares which, once the proceeds are 80% invested, will convert into new Ordinary Shares with new Warrants.

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To Templeton Registration Office, Prospect ERE271, 17 Nether Square, Livingston EH54 5BR.

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حكاية من الاول

Water buyers should pay through the nose Sliding down a familiar track Barings victims still owed fair share

Some serious competition, please

WE HAVE all been here before, and an undignified sight it was. The water sector is now set for the sort of undignified scramble that took half the regional electricity companies off the menu last year. To extend the parallel, we might now expect to look back in a year's time on ScottishPower's bid for Southern Water as an absolute steal.

After their abject failure to wrest any benefits to the consumer out of the electricity takeovers, it is up to the competition authorities, the industry regulator and even the Government, heaven help us, to start work now to prevent that from happening again.

Valuing utilities is notoriously difficult. But ScottishPower is offering 12 times last year's earnings for a company whose regulatory regime stretches only until the year 2000. In other words, it is assuming, disregarding interest costs and other variables, that Southern will be here in unchanged form until 2008. A Labour government and a tougher regulator could make the business worthless by the next review — or even sooner.

It is a truism that if someone wants to buy your business for more than it is worth they are either fools — in which case cash

the cheque immediately — or they have spotted extra value not immediately obvious. Assume the latter in the case of ScottishPower, which picked up Manweb last year for a price that with hindsight looks cheap. The Scots want access to 1.8 million Southern customers, to whom they can sell their own gas next year and electricity in 1998.

Southern Electric, by contrast, wants Southern Water to deny the Scots, or anyone else, easy access to that customer base so it can continue to sell to them. Both, therefore, have good reasons for bidding, and Water is wisely bidding its time before naming a preferred suitor. If they want the water company badly enough, they should be required to pay both shareholders and consumers to get it.

This elementary piece of common sense was missed during the last bidding war in utilities, when a Texan business lost out to North West Water for Norweb. Yet Ian Byatt, the water regulator, has already required that

bids within the industry compete in terms of what they offer the consumer as well as the shareholder. There seems no reason why that principle should not be extended further.

ScottishPower has tacitly started off this bidding round by offering 3 per cent off water bills from April 1998, as well as 975p cash. Other potential bidders, including Southern Electric, should be required to beat this, or see their offers stalled with the MMC. Some proper competition this time around, please.

Mathematics of the car boot sale

DEJA vu, part two: the privatisation of British Energy, now so hard to distinguish from Railtrack that investors might just as well not bother with the prospectus but send in a copy of their earlier applications. Just as well that this is the last such sell-off, because they are acquiring a tiresome familiarity.



First, take the unsaleable, either the country's much-despised rail network or all those terrifying nukes. Start off at a low price, and then allow the City to ratchet it down to perhaps tenth what it is worth — the nuclear stations cost the taxpayer £13 billion to build and they will be worth, if lucky, £1.5 billion.

Then apply opposing pressure, by threatening to sell a large chunk of the business to the private investor. This could deprive the City institutions, especially those whose daring approach to share selection involves taking whatever is available in exactly the same

proportion as the next player. These may have to scramble about on the stock market to buy the shares they need.

Next, launch an advertising campaign that makes no reference to the business on offer but merely tips off the punters that a real snip is heading their way, courtesy of privatisation. Slip in a few extras, in case the deal does not turn out to be quite sweet enough. Await the first day's scramble for deliberately underpriced equity, and congratulate yourself for another "success".

With British Energy, we are now up to the marketing launch and just ahead of the hand-out of the little extras. We will this time at least miss the special dividend arrangements that paid Railtrack investors an additional £69 million. Dividends are meant to reflect the risk involved in holding the shares, but not in that case — the payment party covered the period before they were sold. Just what little bonuses will have to be provided this time instead?

Perhaps they will not be needed. The advisers are pointing to the "success" of Railtrack, now worth 18 per cent more than it was sold for, as an omen for the British Energy float. On that basis, another "success" looks guaranteed.

Charity begins at home for ING

WHEN ING bought most of Barings, the Dutch gained a fine business by having the courage that eluded the likes of NatWest. They also bought enduring embarrassment. Most insiders were looked after — traders and managers have been paid many millions in bonuses geared to Nick Leeson's phantom profits. Many outsiders, including the Baring Foundation and bond and preference holders who thought the Bank of England's imprimatur meant something, lost out. Had the false bonuses not been paid, individual bondholders and charities could have

been. Do not blame ING, which has already made some payments where it is in line and has made a gesture to the foundation. Beyond the principals within Barings, fault looms largest at the Bank of England. But ING faces the embarrassment.

One face of it is the Abbot of Downside, who brings a prelate's gaze to the unruly house of Mammon on behalf of a charity. Father Charles has now taken his campaign to the Commons Treasury Select Committee. Another ever-present, if silent, voice of disapproval is the collective one of traders in financial markets, especially in the Far East. For many of them, Barings has lost honour and failed to redeem itself. It is no longer the trading partner of preference, but only of last resort.

If ING is to realise the true potential of Barings, it needs to dispel the nasty taste lingering from the bank's fall and rise, by squaring at least individual and charitable bond and preference holders, if not all. That might most sensibly be done by giving them a claim on future income. And if staff were invited to divi up half their false bonuses, and the names of volunteers and referees were published, Barings might finally be rehabilitated.

Sun Life set to raise up to £600m from public offer

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SUN Life, the UK life company wholly owned by Union des Assurances de Paris (UAP), the French insurer, expects to raise between £450 million and £600 million from its proposed initial public offer of shares next month.

The pathfinder prospectus was published yesterday and bookbuilding starts in Britain and America with a full prospectus on June 10. Robert Fleming is financial adviser and global co-ordinator.

UAP will retain a majority stake of between 51 and 75 per cent, depending on the re-

sponse from institutions. It will use the proceeds to pay off debts of £600 million from recent acquisitions. UAP will undertake in the underwriting agreement that it will not dispose of ordinary shares for one year from listing.

The new quoted company will be called Sun Life and Provincial Holdings (SLP). It will comprise three separate companies: Sun Life, the fourth largest UK life insurer, which sells mostly pensions and some investments; Provincial, which sells general insurance; and New Ireland, a life and pensions provider in the Republic of Ireland. The

outstanding debt is a result of the acquisition of 50 per cent of Sun Life from TransAtlantic Holdings in 1995 and the purchase of Provincial in November 1994.

The offer next month will comprise an offer of ordinary shares to certain institutional investors in the UK, the US and the rest of the world and to the public in the UK, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man.

UAP will have the right to nominate directors to the board of SLP, and future development of international business. Michael Hart, chief executive of SLP, said SLP was a holding company, not a

composite insurer. "Each of the businesses which make up the Sun Life and Provincial Holdings Group has proven management, a clear strategy, and a good track record."

The first dividend will be paid in May 1997 and will be the final payout for the year to December 31 1996. Any interims will be paid in November.

The company said it would have expected to recommend a total net dividend for 1995 of 9.2 pence per ordinary share, making a gross dividend of 11.5p. In 1995, Sun Life made a pre-tax profit of £90 million.

Temps, page 28

Blacks surges to £2m

By SARAH BAGNALL

A STRONG retail performance helped Blacks Leisure, the sports goods and leisure retailer, to lift pre-tax profits from £60,000 to £2.1 million in the year to February 29.

The advance came on sales of £68.3 million, up from £65.6 million in the previous year. The news lifted the shares 17p to 147p. Profits were held back by a loss on the sale of Quasercorp and trading losses by discontinued businesses of £1.12 million.

The retail performance was helped by a 22 per cent leap in like-for-like sales at First Sport, which sells technical sports equipment. The Blacks Outdoor chain had a tough first nine months due to mild weather but trading recovered, almost offsetting earlier falls.

The final dividend was lifted from 1.5p to 1.75p, making an annual total of 2.5p (2.25p). The dividend, due October 4, is payable from earnings of 5.54p (1.62p) a share.

Dentist braced to join market

By SARAH BAGNALL

WHITECROSS, a chain of six dental practices, is to join the Alternative Investment Market (AIM), becoming the first dental business to obtain a stock market listing (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The company is raising £825,000 through a placing of 982,143 shares at 84p a share. The offer — representing 24 per cent of the company — values Whitecross at £3.5 million. The funds will help finance the group's planned expansion in a market worth about £1.5 billion a year.

Whitecross, which is loss-making, plans to open a further nine high street practices in London over the next five years. Each practice costs about £350,000 to establish and as a result Whitecross intends to raise a further £785,000 from a combination of bank debt and finance leases.

Whitecross lost £264,000 in the year to December 31 on

sales of £2.2 million. The result reflected start-up costs for three new practices and an increase in staffing costs to a level high enough to operate a 15-strong chain.

The placing will reduce the holdings of the three company directors with shares from 13 per cent to 9.9 per cent each. The directors' combined shareholding of 30 per cent will be worth more than £1 million, based upon the placing price.

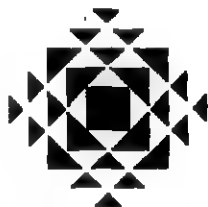
The directors have given a projection of the group's financial future, but they stress this is not a forecast. Over the next two years Whitecross is projected to lose £172,000 and then make a £305,000 pre-tax profit, rising to £707,000 in 2000. Based upon these projections the company does not expect to pay a dividend for at least three years. However, once able, Whitecross intends to adopt a progressive dividend policy.

Smurfit has rethink on bonus pay

From EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

JEFFERSON SMURFIT, the paper and packaging group, has bowed to pressure from fund managers by changing a much-hated bonus package for Michael Smurfit, chairman and chief executive, that could have been worth up to Ir£5 million a year.

The original package, outlined in the annual report, proposed two sets of payments: an annual bonus of up to Ir£2.5 million a year, based on the company's profit performance; and a long-term plan annual payment, based on share price and paid dividends. The combined payments were to be capped at a total of Ir£20 million over the next four years. The company is expected to present a rejigged package at its annual meeting in Dublin tomorrow, with new performance-related elements and assurances that institutional guidelines will be considered in future.



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صحة من الاحول

WEDNESDAY MAY

Winners include suppliers and shareholders, writes Jon Ashworth



Landlord's good fortune

SHARING a paddock with the chief executive of Asda clearly has its plus points. Archie Norman, who rents his farmhouse from Charles Dent, managing director of Timothy Taylor's, has agreed to stock his supermarket shelves with his landlord's finest ale. With the first week of the brew going on sale, Timothy Taylor's Landlord, brewed in Keighley, was sold out in 50 Asda supermarkets across the North. Apparently, the name of the ale has nothing to do with Norman's neighbour — it was christened in 1953.

Squeezed out

NEIL MARSHALL, long-time voice of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, is out of the spotlight after this week's shake-up. After 18 years with the organisation, most recently as director of public policy, Marshall was somewhat shocked to be told by Chris Macgowan, new chief executive, that he could leave at the end of this month. Rumours at the federation's Great Portland Street offices suggest that its leading spokesman was squeezed between Macgowan, in his new role as crusader, and Alan Pugh, director of RMI's National Franchised Dealers' Association.



"Are the shares safe, or will they glow in the dark?"

Island race

WHETHER Caroline Robins is crowned AA Landlady of the Year or not, her journey to the awards today certainly sets her apart. Having left her desk at Midland Bank in Guernsey four years ago, Robins moved with her husband to run Hotel Petit Champ on the tiny island of Sark. The same woman was cycling to the harbour at 4.30 this morning, where a specially chartered boat took her to Guernsey. Then it was a taxi ride to the airport, a flight to Gatwick, a train to Victoria, and a taxi to the Savoy. Robins, who will make the same journey in reverse tonight, says: "I must be back to serve breakfast."

Supporting role

LIAM DALTON, one of the models for Gordon Gecko in Oliver Stone's movie *Wall Street*, feels that something is missing in his life since the Eighties smash hit. City whiz-kid Dalton, who was crowned a partner at Bear Stearns only two years after leaving college in the US, lent actor Charlie Sheen his red braces for the movie, and they were never returned. Ron Insana, author of *Traders' Tales*, includes the anecdote in his collection published this month. Sheen claims that he can't find the trademark "suspenders", but Dalton thinks otherwise.

A SISTER restaurant of the Sloane-infested bistro *Foxrot* Oscar is said to be opening up in the City. By the end of this week, restaurateur Michael Prodlock will know whether the City's best will be rubbing shoulders with the likes of Fergie's financial adviser, John Bryan, the Marquess of Blandford, and Diana Ross.

MORAG PRESTON

Camelot is poised for a fresh round of record profits. The figures, expected next week, will show that lottery ticket sales reached £5.2 billion in the year to March 31, generating a pre-tax profit of about £70 million. The amount after tax will reach about £47 million, or £900,000 a week. By the time the licence expires in September 2001, profits to Camelot could have topped £320 million. It is a remarkable figure.

The size of the profits will spark predictable howls of protest, and renew calls for Camelot to donate the excess to charity. It gave away about £500,000 in donations last year, and has budgeted for a similar amount in 1996 — not nearly enough to satisfy critics. Camelot will argue that it deserves to be rewarded for doing an exemplary job, and remind a sceptical public that it faces penalties of £1 million a day if it falls behind with the installation of National Lottery terminals.

The obvious winners are Camelot's shareholders: Cadbury Schweppes, De La Rue, ICL, GTEch, and Racal Electronics, who took a significant risk in pitching for the lottery contract, but have been left holding what is effectively a licence to print money. Dividends paid out last time totalled £9.5 million. Whichever way you look at it, they are fast recouping their initial £50 million equity investment.

But the shareholders are just part of the story. They lie at the centre of an enormous web, one which reaches out to all corners of the UK, and beyond, and which has had a huge knock-on effect in employment and revenues.

Up to £90 million in ticket sales passes through the system each week, benefiting printers, technicians, telecoms experts and designers. There are rich pickings to be had.

The main beneficiaries include BT, which bills Camelot an estimated £11 million a year for servicing the National Lottery network. Camelot's telecom charges work out at more than £1,000 per lottery terminal per year, split between Racal, which provides access to its Government Data Network, and BT, which provides the lines linking retailers with various "concentrators". BT's charges are estimated at 50 per cent of the annual cost per terminal.

With 22,000 online terminals and rising, BT's charges are certain to exceed £11 million. BT confirmed that Camelot is one of its largest customers for private circuits. Other telecoms companies involved include Mercury, Energis (the telecoms arm of the National Grid), and Kingston Communications, which links about



From terminals to telecom providers and ticket printers to PR advisers, plenty of businesses are enjoying a golden age under Camelot

Spreading the millions up and down the land



THE OTHER LOTTERY MILLIONAIRES

10 per cent of retailers to the network via satellite. In terms of headline numbers, it is hard to match Camelot's advertising spend, which is estimated at 1 per cent of sales a year — a tidy £52 million or so. The winners are the ITV companies, which received about £33 million in advertising from Camelot last year, according to submissions to MPs.

There is less cheer for the BBC, which pays Camelot substantial (but undisclosed) sums for the right to broadcast *National Lottery Live*. MPs think it "unacceptable" for Camelot to sell the rights to broadcast the lottery draw results, whatever the ratings.

The sheer scale of advertising will have been welcome at Cardiant, the advertising agency formerly known as Saatchi & Saatchi, which has suffered a turbulent year after the departure of the eponymous brothers.

Billings are not disclosed, but Cardiant will be well-rewarded for a task that runs from designing posters to creating TV commercials. Heavy fees are on hand for Camelot's key advisers, including Price Waterhouse, auditor; SBC Warburg, financial adviser; McKenna & Co, legal advisers; and Royal Bank of Scotland, banker. Brunswick, the City PR firm, steered Camelot through the fiercely competitive licence-bidding round, using strategies normally reserved for City takeover bids. It will have collected a substantial success fee for its work, and continues to advise Camelot.

GTEch has individually retained Lowe Bell, led by Sir Tim Bell, to steer it through the rougher patches. Regional PR is in the hands of yet another firm. Hall Harrison Conley, which has offices from Plymouth to Manchester. The trio of agencies complement Camelot's substantial in-house operation.

Hands-on suppliers range from Chubb Wardens, which provides security guards, to Sutcliffe, which provides catering, but it is in the physical production of tickets and materials that the real riches lie. Key beneficiaries include Stralfores, a Swedish-owned specialist printer, which prints 75 per cent of National Lottery playbooks, and produces all the receipt rolls for retailers.

Initial stock was supplied from Sweden, but the company has since set up a factory in Falmouth, creating about 18 jobs, and providing a boost to the local economy. The UK generates about 8 per cent — or £16 million — of Stralfores' £200 million-a-year turnover.

Additional playbooks are supplied by Ritchie (UK), a specialist printer based in Kilmarlock, near Glasgow. A spokesman said: "It is a wonderful contract, supplying the biggest brand name in the UK. It has put the company on a solid financial footing." Profits are undisclosed, but Ritchie's turnover is £12 million to £15 million a year.

Another winner is Digital (UK), a subsidiary of the American computer manufacturer, which supplied the mainframe computers that power the lottery, and has technicians on permanent call. Some £4 million was invested in seven computers, and Camelot is soon to embark on upgrading its disks at an estimated cost of £1.5 million. Other suppliers include DeLease, the computer leasing company.

Instant tickets are manufactured by Scientific Games, based in Atlanta, Georgia. They are shipped in by container and delivered to the Camelot distribution centre in Northampton, for onward shipment by Parcelforce, the parcels arm of the Post Office. Parcelforce has six or seven staff permanently on site.

Point of sale material is distributed to retailers by Target Express, a parcel distribution company. Martin Kenyon, regional general manager, said Camelot was a prestige customer, which made a "substantial" contribution to the company's £60 million-plus turnover.

Print & Marketing Services, based in Derby, collates Camelot's point of sale, display and merchandise materials. It also supplies a range of printed materials. The contract has given rise to six new jobs, and provided increased financial security for employees. Artform International, based in Loughborough, makes instant dispensers and lottery play stations. NDI Display, based in Winslow, Cheshire, equipped more than 10,000 retailers with display and promotional material. David Green Displays, of Leicester, prints handbooks for retailers.

Attention next week will inevitably swing back to the main Camelot shareholders, who are braced for the predictable cat-calls. They play varying roles, with GTEch as the backbone.

ICL assemblies computers supplied in kit form by GTEch, and trains retailers through Peritas, its subsidiary. Racal supplies the lines. Cadbury Schweppes and De La Rue provide consulting services.

Camelot can afford to be sanguine. As Peter Murphy, Camelot's finance director, puts it: "It's no accident that Camelot is the second most efficient lottery operator in the world after New Jersey. We have a policy of full disclosure. We don't hide things."

Beware of the sharks at Camelot's Fort Knox

The sign in a corner of Camelot's top security warehouse in Northampton says it all: "Sharks Must Be Fed By Authorised Personnel Only." Behind the sign, thousands of gallons of water fill an aluminium-steel tank, ready to feed a sprinkler system at the first hint of fire. Pallets are stacked three-high, filled with Instant games to the value of £600 million.

Intruders to Camelot's Fort Knox might well find themselves fed to the sharks — but they would have to find it first. The warehouse is unmarked, and would not attract more than a passing glance. For all its anonymity, it is the hub of an enterprise that draws on suppliers from Scotland to Cornwall and relies on the tightest security. Anyone attempting to make

off with a lorryload of Instant games would be wasting their time — they are worthless until activated — but Camelot, nevertheless, takes the threat very seriously. "This represents up to £600 million in lost revenue," says Derek Gent, a former royal bodyguard who manages operations at the site. "Theft could have an impact on the integrity of the game. Otherwise, it's just paper." Employees are rigorously vetted.

Packs of Instant games are dispatched by Parcelforce under a bar code system that allows Camelot to tell precisely where a consignment is at any one time. Target Express distributes starter-packs to retailers and transports 20 million play-slips a week. The operation is carried out with minimum fuss and maximum security. The sharks see to that.

Numbers that make operation add up

By the end of this week, or possibly next, the amount paid by Camelot to good causes will pass the £2 billion mark. The figure is one of dozens of statistics churned out by the Camelot enterprise. It will not be the last.

By Saturday night, £5.4 billion in online lottery tickets had been sold since the tills opened in November 1994. Sales of Instant games reached £1.7 billion, making total lottery sales of £7.1 billion. The amount payable to the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) reached £1.9 billion. Lottery duty, at 12 per cent, totals £852 million, while retailers, on 5 per cent, have received £353 million.

About £39 million was spent marketing the lottery launch. Mailshots went out to 21.8 million homes, and 30 million "How To Play" leaflets were distributed.

The scale of the operation guarantees a busy time for the telephone hotline team at Camelot's headquarters, near Watford, Hertfordshire, which fields 17,000 calls a week from retailers. Technicians are equipped with a diagnostic system that allows them to "see" inside individual terminals. A 120-strong team works in shifts, taking calls from 6am to 11pm. More than 1.7 million calls have been taken since launch — enough to keep one person occupied for 70 years.

The National Lottery Line, at Aintree, near Liverpool, fields an estimated 30,000 calls from the public each week.



Camelot's base handles 17,000 calls a week from retailers

Money-making machine offers giftware bonus

Stripped of its glamour, Camelot is little more than a vast money-making machine. About £90 million a week finds its way from shop and supermarket tills to a variety of destinations — but do not expect a fleet of Securix vans.

Shopkeepers opening for business on Sunday can learn the week's take at the push of a button. On Monday, money deposited in a local bank account is transferred electronically to a central account with the Royal Bank of Scotland. Some retailers complain of excessive charging by the banks, which appear to make a tidy turn on the sums passing through the system.

Security equipment manufacturers and insurance companies are among other less obvious beneficiaries. Independent retailers are having to spend £4,000 or more on video systems to monitor queues, owing to the high volumes of cash. Camelot does not help with the expense. Insurers may charge higher premiums to cover the increased risk.

A second large flow of funds occurs on Tuesday, when the tranche payable to good causes is transferred to the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF). From here on, the money is out of Camelot's hands, although many people blame it when funds go to a controversial cause.

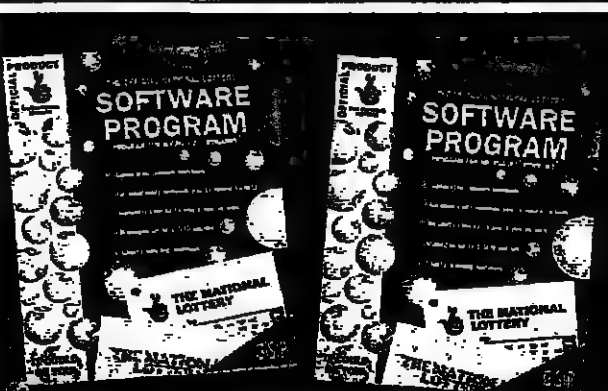
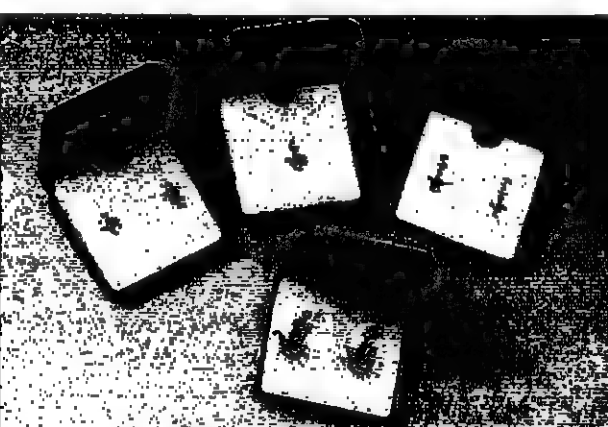
The balance of funds owing from retailers is collected on

Wednesday. The amount payable in prizes is deposited with the Law Debenture Trust Corporation, which acts as an independent trustee. Funds unclaimed after 180 days are channelled to the NLDF, but Camelot's policy of keeping the interest on unclaimed prizes has been widely condemned. Camelot could earn an extra £10 million in interest this year. MPs say that the money should go to the NLDF.

A colourful, if minor, spin-off, lies in National Lottery Enterprises, which has spawned a mini-industry in lottery-related products. Merchandise includes computer programs, fridge magnets, key-rings, pendants, and gold-plated cufflinks. Camelot has also launched a board game, and is considering brand extensions including a magazine, clothing and licensing deals. Food and drink products have not been ruled out.

These activities fall under the scrutiny of Peter Davis, the much-criticised lottery regulator, and his team at Oflot. Monitoring the lottery has spawned more than 50 government jobs and draws on significant financial resources.

Camelot has invested more than £100 million in its retail network, including terminals, installation and servicing. It faces penalties of £1 million a day if quarterly deadlines are missed. The network is due to peak at 35,000 terminals at the end of the year.



Merchandise carrying the official National Lottery symbol includes gold-plated cufflinks, top, fridge magnets and key rings and computer programs

Expertise but an image problem

Every aspect of the National Lottery relies on the technical skill of GTEch, the American lottery operator and supplier — but there are times when its fellow Camelot shareholders must wish otherwise. From the moment the lottery licence was thrown open to tender, controversy and GTEch have gone hand in glove.

GTEch is second to none in lottery expertise, but the problem was one of image. Was it appropriate that a company that had sailed close to the wind (nothing against it has ever been proved) should be allowed a lucrative slice of a huge British money-spinner?

The rub, as Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, admitted to MPs on the Public Accounts Committee, was that just about all the operators that applied had black marks against them. GTEch was by no means the worst offender. The choice was

either to allow one to participate on its technical strengths, suitably muzzled, or to drop the idea of a lottery altogether.

GTEch will not disclose how much it is making from its UK contract, but the 1995 annual report provides some clues. The company supplies the software that makes the lottery "tick", and receives a service fee for providing technical assistance. A hotline is always open to GTEch's headquarters in Rhode Island.

Service revenue aside, GTEch is entitled to 22.5 per cent of any dividend to Camelot shareholders. It has received

TOMORROW: Brass bands and corner shops hit the winning numbers

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It is also about shared ideals.

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Values that we intend to apply to every single aspect of the way we do business.

You are surprised to hear such sentiments coming from a global pharmaceutical company?

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BLUES

Keb' Mo' charms on debut as the action-packed London Blues Festival (almost) hits its stride



CABARET

... while at the Café Royal the former child-star Bonnie Langford displays a new vocal maturity

THE TIMES ARTS



POP

Punk reincarnate: the Irish trio Ash confirm the golden opinions won with their debut album



TOMORROW

Reviews of Manic Street Preachers and the first night of the Open-Air Theatre in Regent's Park

JAZZ

A song in every colour

Marian McPartland
Wigmore Hall

AS MARIAN MCPARTLAND announced, in her demure, slightly Americanised accent, that her opening number would be *I'm Old-Fashioned*, a guffaw exploded from somewhere at the front of the audience. Having led an expatriate existence for so many years, McPartland may have the manners and bearing of the Englishwoman abroad, yet "old-fashioned" is definitely the last word to describe her musical tastes.

Anyone who places *Turn-around*, a slice of early Ornette Coleman, on the same programme as Duke Ellington's *Isfahan* is clearly not looking for a quiet life. Half a century after she scandalised her impeccably middle-class family by taking up with jazz and the high-spirited cornetist Jimmy McPartland, she is still making records of a remarkable consistency.

The last time I heard her live, two years ago, she chased those two young guns, Christian McBride and Brian Blade, all around the auditorium in an exuberant performance in Harlem. Though her more restrained trio and quartet recital at the Wigmore Hall — the final instalment in the venue's *Jazz Encounters* chamber series — betrayed signs of a slowing of reflexes, her use of colour and contrast remained unimpaired.

All *The Things You Are* took off on a fugue-like excursion reminiscent of John Lewis, before suddenly dropping in a quotation from *Rockin' in Rhythm*. *Gone with the Wind* was rebuilt around a glimmering, low-register obbligato supplied by John Dankworth's clarinet.

A pity that the other settings were not as varied, many of them lapsing into a mundane pattern of bass and drum solos. Alec Dankworth and Allan Ganley are both admirable players, but even they are capable of only so many variations on that particular theme. McPartland happens to be an unusually resourceful solo improviser, as she demonstrated on her 1991 Maybeck Hall recital. Given the unforgetting acoustics — ideal for chamber music, of course, but not so hospitable to jazz — duets and unaccompanied pieces would have been doubly welcome.

CLIVE DAVIS

FESTIVALS: Venue-hopping in search of the Bank Holiday weekend blues in London; jazz at its most beguiling in Bath



"A bunch of soloists looking for a band": the Fabulous Thunderbirds headlined the London Blues Festival, but they were not the hottest act on show

Looking for Mr 12-bar

The second London Blues Festival started on a high note and ended on a disappointing — if not missed — one. In between times in this all-American line-up, several reputations were confirmed and some were made.

It was bigger and better than last year's event, but work still needs to be done on the programming. Splitting it between two centres and subjecting it to some quirky scheduling (why did the first night of the festival at Watermans, Brentford, only start at 10.45pm and feature just two acts?) made a comprehensive overview of the three days of gigs difficult. A trip to see the Fabulous Thunderbirds, the closing act at Blackheath Concert Halls on Sunday, meant missing Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown at Watermans.

The opening high came courtesy of acoustic guitarist Kevin Moore, alias Keb' Mo'. His debut album, released last year, revealed him as an outstanding talent, able to reinterpret classics such as Robert Johnson's *Kind Hearted Woman Blues* and *Come On in My Kitchen* in a fresh and appealing way as well as provide original songs which combined superb guitar playing with an almost caressing vocal style.

His live act added another dimension — there is power in his playing too, including a string of stunning guitar licks he told us he had learnt

from Eugene Powell, the Mississippi bluesman who first recorded in 1936.

It was unfortunate that such an extrovert performer was followed by such an intense one as John Hammond, whose brooding interpretations of Delta classics such as *Drop Down Mama* were fine in their way, but just served to quieten an audience ready to have some fun. That is not to say that Hammond was not good value. There can be few artists who get so involved in their music as he does, with back arched, eyes closed and veins bulging, he lost himself in each number. The problem was that the effort seemed largely wasted in front of an audience that was merely intent on having a good time.

The acoustic theme was developed by another young back-to-the-roots musician, Corey Harris. A former teacher, and one of the few bluesmen around with a masters degree in anthropology, Harris, mild and affable offstage, proved to be a commanding and aggressive figure on it, slapping his guitar and lapsing, at times, into almost Howlin' Wolf-like growling

vocals. On a day when the weather was less than kind, it was nice to hear him sing: "I was standing in Blackheath, my feet got soaking wet/I was waiting for my baby and she ain't come yet." If Harris had been worth waiting for, then so was James Carr — even if the wait had been a little prolonged. It was back in the 1960s that rhythm and blues aficionados would whisper that, although Otis Redding was the most popular soul singer of his era, there was another performer who could give him a run for his money as far as soul ballads were concerned.

That artist was Carr, and there was one song in particular, an aching, poignant number about cheating called *The Dark End of the Street* which was arguably one of the finest moments of that particularly rich and fertile period.

But the fragile state of his health meant that Carr never achieved the success he deserved. He disappeared for long periods, and it is only in recent years that he has been rediscovered and started recording again.

Making his UK debut, he looked nervous and frail — until he began to

sing. In a voice strong, rich and powerful he reprised all his early hits and provided a version of *Street* that was one of the festival's high spots.

If Carr had taken us into Southern soul territory, then Magic Slim and the Teardrops brought us firmly back into the blues world and its spiritual home, Chicago. Tight wasn't the word for it. Here was a four-piece band that needed only the briefest of guitar licks immediately to impose its authority.

Driven by some rock-solid drumming and bass lines, they barely paused between numbers — as they gave a superb display of what Chicago blues should be — a dynamism that was controlled and a passion that wasn't.

The Fabulous Thunderbirds then had the opportunity to provide a fitting finale, but failed to do so. Again it was a matter of contrasts. Where Slim was tight and controlled, the Thunderbirds were looser and, it seemed, less focused. There is no denying the skill of virtuoso harmonica player and vocalist Kim Wilson or of guitarist Kid Ramos, but the power and good feelings were frittered away in self-indulgent solos that lasted so long you forgot what the song was. There were some marvellous moments, but you couldn't help get the feeling that here was a bunch of soloists looking for a band.

JOHN CLARKE

Making his very belated UK debut, James Carr looked nervous — until he sang

Never mind the Pistols ...

POP

Ash
Forum, NW5

Ash's music is rooted firmly in the cut and thrust of 1970s punk.

That is not to say that they are the classic punk mannerisms on stage — far from it. They certainly played both fast and loud when the moment demanded it, and almost lifted the roof off the Forum with their parting shot of *Jack Names the Planets*, followed by a confetti-strewn encore of *Kung Fu*.

But they also tackled many

mid-paced and slow-paced songs, including *Oh Yeah* and *Lost in You* (the latter sounding disconcertingly like *Strangers in the Night* with just as much conviction, and chucked in a competent cover of the old Temptations hit, *Get Ready*, for good measure. The ringing, melodic detail of their singles *Girl From Mars* and *Goldfinger* — both played early on in the set — remained in the mind long after their show had finished.

Drummer Rick McMurray (stiff-backed, total lack of swing) and bassist Mark Hamilton (barefoot, instrument round his ankles) both looked and sounded perpetually busy. But singer, guitarist and chief songwriter Tim

Wheeler evinced a peculiarly languid stage persona, never appearing unduly hurried or indeed much bothered as glitter balls and brilliant lights sparkled and juddered all around and scenes of mayhem unfolded in the crowd before him.

If the sound was a little rough on the ear, and Wheeler's vocals rather subject to drift, these were minor flaws that went with the territory and did nothing to diminish the palpable sense of occasion.

In this improbably rich season of pop discoveries, yet another major talent has come of age.

DAVID SINCLAIR

If her friends can see her now

CABARET

Bonnie Langford
Green Room

arranger and musical director, on piano, Nick Moss, fluent on saxophones, clarinet and flute, impresses mightily. Rufus Philpott (bass), Joe O'Connor (keyboards) and Matthew Senior (drums) complete an enviably well-integrated band, with whom she is on musically equal terms.

Only a tendency to rush her

links, with a hint of "gosh-darn, isn't showbiz fun", recalls Langford's early, precocious years. Much more to the point is the assured, even raunchy manner of her handling of material ranging from *Some Cats Know to He Plays Piano in the Dark*.

There are show tunes, but cannily chosen: apart from a nicely judged *Somewhere That's Green*, from *The Little Shop of Horrors*, the best are a group from *Gypsy* — *Some People and Together Wherever We Go* — and a superb routine tying together *Hey Big Spender*, *There's Gotta Be*

Something Better Than This, *If They Could See Me Now*, *Somebody Loves Me* and *Rhythm of Life*. Casting agents seeing her tackle these would be sorting out the contracts next morning.

Although complaining of a dry throat, she turns in a virtuosic *I'm Tone Deaf*, a comic show-stopper which, with an athletic performance of Tom Lehrer's *Masochism Tango*, underlines a sense of humour which extends to self-parody. Neil Sedaka's *On the Other Side of Me* has particular resonance, while confident versions of *Take Me To The River*, *Nowhere To Run* and (amazingly) James Brown's *I Got You* suggest tastes tougher than you thought. An altogether surprising and exhilarating evening.

TONY PATRICK

LAST 10 DAYS BOX OFFICE #1 328 1000

NUREMBERG

War Crimes Trial

Edited by Richard Norton-Taylor
Directed by Nicolas Kent

269 KILN HILL ROAD

"COULD HARDLY BE MORE TIMELY" *The Guardian*

"THIS IS AN EVENING THAT FORCES THE AUDIENCE TO CONFRONT THE DARKNESS OF MAN'S HEART WITH SOBER SERIOUSNESS AND A MINIMUM OF SENSATIONALISM" *Daily Telegraph*

"IT IS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS... THERE ARE BRILLIANT PERFORMANCES" *Sunday Telegraph*

"GRIPPING METICULOUS RECONSTRUCTION... THE ACTING IS VERY FINE" *The Independent*

"AN INTENSELY POWERFUL DRAMATISATION" *Independent on Sunday*

"THIS TREMENDOUS EVENING... THE THEATRE AT ITS BEST AS A MORAL FORCE" *Sunday Times*

"GRIPPING, PROVOKING PIECE OF THEATRE... RIVETINGLY TENSE AS THE BEST COURTROOM THRILLER... ACTED WITH HUGE CONVICTION, EVEN BY THOSE WHO HAVE FEW OR NO LINES" *Evening Standard*

"IMPECCABLE... IMPRESSIVE... CHALLENGING" *Time Out*

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"THESE PLAYS FORCEFULLY LOCATE THE PRINCIPLE OF NUREMBERG - THAT INDIVIDUALS ARE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WAR CRIMES - IN THE PRESENT DAY" *Independent on Sunday*

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The Directors of Macbeth plc accept responsibility for the contents of this statement/prospectus, which has been approved by the Institute of Directors, which has been approved by the Institute of Directors, which has been approved by the Institute of Directors.

CHOICE 1

Steven Berkoff brings his fierce *Coriolanus* to London

VENUE: Now in preview at the Mermaid Theatre

CHOICE 2

Song and dance, Thirties-style Kim Criswell leads *Dames at Sea*

VENUE: This week at the Ambassadors Theatre

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Greenwich hears John Tavener's new composition, *Let's Begin Again*

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Naval College

VISUAL ART

In front of the children: Kate Greenaway's book illustrations are shown alongside her successors

LONDON

COROLANUS Steven Berkoff's much-travelled production arrives in London with himself as a smarmy, ear-breaking fascist.

Mermaid, Puddle Dock, EC4 (0171-236 2211). Preview begins tonight, 7.30pm. Opens June 12, 7pm. £5.

DAMES AT SEA Kim Criswell, Sara Cross, Peter Duncan in the first of two musicals in the BOG Covent Garden Festival, a comedy musical in the style of the 1930s, music by Jim Wise. John Gardner directs.

Ambassadors, West Strand, WC2 (0171-312 1888). Preview tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 8pm.

FRENCH PREMIERE The conductor Christophe Rousset makes his debut with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Sandwiched between works by Campra and Rameau is Handel's *Motet*, Silex vocal, sung by the French soprano Viorica Gheorghiu.

Mermaid, Puddle Dock, EC4 (0171-236 2211). Tonight, 7.45pm. £5.

LET'S BEGIN AGAIN The highlight of this film festival is the London premiere of John Tavener's new work, *Let's Begin Again*, with Loreda Falcetti conducting the Thomas Tallis Chamber Choir, Britten Sinfonia and the soprano Patricia Rozema. The evening begins with Philip Simms conducting a programme of

BEAST ON THE MOON Richard Kainkoff's award-winning play about two survivors of the 1915 Armenian massacres arrives in London. Directed by Irene Brook.

SW11 (0171-223 2222). Tue-Sat 8pm. Sun 5pm. Until June 2.

CHAPTER TWO Tom Coad and Simon Glass play unattached New Yorkers who find love each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best.

St. James's Theatre, St. James's, SW1 (0171-484 5000). Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8.15pm. Mat 3pm. Sun, 2.30pm.

COMEDY OF ERRORS The New Shakespeare Company's season opens with Coad's play, a production of the 16th-century comedy. Directed by Neil Simon.

St. James's Theatre, St. James's, SW1 (0171-484 5000). Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8.15pm. Mat 3pm. Sun, 2.30pm.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) The RSC's (Royal Shakespeare Company) popular, potty rough-handling of the Bard.

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THE DEVIL IS AN ASS Simon Glass's production of a play about a sleazy Londoner who soon finds he is far from the devil. An energetic but hollow production.

NEW RELEASES

ANGUS (12): Fat kid fights off his bullies. Tame, but not too tame.

With Charles Talbot and Kathy Bates. Director, Patrick Rest. Johnson. Price (020-886 997).

UNE FEMME FRANÇAISE (18): High-class 1920s, with Genevieve Bujard and Daniel Auteuil. Director, Régis Wargnier.

Carson. Price (020-886 997).

MURPHY TREASURE ISLAND (18): Henry and Miss Pender. Director, Steven Spielberg.

Carson. Price (020-886 997).

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Carson. Price (020-886 997).

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

ARTISTS PARTNERS BODICOO PARK GALLERY 22 May - 14 June. 12 Midland St. SW1. Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm.

OPERA & BALLET

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Murray

20th-century e capella works, by Copland, Barber and Tippett. Royal Albert Hall, 11.30am-1.15pm. £10-15.75. Tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BATH The dynamic young American soprano Tilly Hackett gives a recital in the Assembly Rooms. The Jewish-influenced repertoire includes Prokofiev's *Overture on Jewish Themes*, Milhaud's *Requiem*, and works by Bloch, Mendelssohn, and others.

Royal Albert Hall, 11.30am-1.15pm. £10-15.75. Tonight, 7.30pm.

CRICHTON A rare opportunity to see Peter Ustinov playing someone other than Lincoln. In his comedy *Ustinov*, brought back to life in his play *Ustinov*. The evening begins with Philip Simms conducting a programme of

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre openings in London

BEAST ON THE MOON Richard Kainkoff's award-winning play about two survivors of the 1915 Armenian massacres arrives in London. Directed by Irene Brook.

SW11 (0171-223 2222). Tue-Sat 8pm. Sun 5pm. Until June 2.

CHAPTER TWO Tom Coad and Simon Glass play unattached New Yorkers who find love each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best.

St. James's Theatre, St. James's, SW1 (0171-484 5000). Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8.15pm. Mat 3pm. Sun, 2.30pm.

COMEDY OF ERRORS The New Shakespeare Company's season opens with Coad's play, a production of the 16th-century comedy. Directed by Neil Simon.

St. James's Theatre, St. James's, SW1 (0171-484 5000). Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8.15pm. Mat 3pm. Sun, 2.30pm.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) (18): The RSC's (Royal Shakespeare Company) popular, potty rough-handling of the Bard.

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SECRETARY & LIES (18): Mel's Ligh's Cannes triumph, an uneven but absorbing tale about family life, sex, drugs, bonds, and secrets. With Brenda Blethyn and Timothy Spall.

Carson. Price (020-886 997).

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MUSIC

Classical and jazz meet in a music-theatre piece that has its roots in personal tragedy



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Wim Vandekeybus brings his brand of conspicuous aggression to the Turning World festival

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MUSIC: Family tragedy lies behind a new work by one of Britain's finest composers. James Woodall reports

Jazz-tinged elegy for a lost brother

Jazz fans will know the names: John Scofield, who played guitar for Miles Davis; and Peter Erskine, who played drums for the jazz-rock band Weather Report. The biggest jazz fan in British contemporary classical music is the 35-year-old composer Mark-Anthony Turnage. His new work, *Blood on the Floor* — commissioned by the Frankfurt-based Ensemble Modern — was written with these American players, particularly Scofield, in mind.

Last weekend in Frankfurt, Turnage was in heaven. Scofield and Erskine had arrived at the Fabrik — or "factory" — where the Ensemble Modern has its offices. Four days of rehearsal lay ahead. Erskine has been one of the most sought-after drummers for two decades. He joined Weather Report in 1978, at the height of the group's fame. Scofield had cut his teeth as guitarist with Charlie Mingus and Billy Cobham before joining Miles Davis in 1962. He has made many solo recordings since.

Turnage is a fan of both. "Two years ago," he says on the second day of rehearsals, "I didn't have a clue about how to get in touch with people like Scofield and Erskine. The jazz and classical worlds are so divided. Never in my dreams would I have thought that I'd be sitting in that rehearsal room with Scofield and Erskine."

The fact that the Ensemble Modern is behind the new piece helps. Recently this multinational, leaderless group, who make their decisions collectively, performed Frank Zappa's *The Yellow Shark* in London. Since coming together in 1980 they have worked with various celebrated jazz musicians, including Ornette Coleman. Turnage's relationship with the Ensemble began in 1988. It performed the world premiere of his opera *Greek* in Munich. Turnage's next piece, *Kai*, was a tribute to Kai Scheffler, a cellist and one of the Ensemble's

founder members who died of Aids shortly after the Munich Greek. *Blood on the Floor* was initially inspired by Francis Bacon's painting showing a splash of blood on a wooden floor. (Bacon was central to Turnage's famous *Three Screaming Popes*, commissioned by Simon Rattle and the CBSO in 1990.) The piece that is now the overture to the new nine-movement work was premiered by the Ensemble in late 1994. Little did they or Turnage know, once composition was under

“If only he could know that a piece is being played in memory of him”

way, what deeper and darker impetus the full piece would ride on a few months later.

In March 1995, Turnage's younger brother Andrew was found dead from a drug overdose. For the previous six months he had cut himself off from his family, including Mark-Anthony. They had always been close. Turnage knew nothing about the drug addiction. "Andrew was warm-hearted," Turnage recalls, "and an amazingly naive guy, in the positive sense. He never used to do anything in excess. But because he was very trusting, he got in with some people he was very impressed with. He got into crack, and died of a lethal dose of heroin and cocaine."

Blood on the Floor has turned into a tribute to Turnage's brother. Its theme is urban alienation, but it is also full of boldly textured lyricism and — naturally — plenty of jazz.

On the first day of rehearsals, John Scofield had played a guitar solo in a section entitled *Elegy for Andy*. "Andrew really liked Miles Davis," says Turnage. "When John played that bit, it got to me. I cried. I thought, 'God, if only he could know that a piece is being played in memory of him.'"

Turnage's own passion for jazz appeared relatively late. His parents, both amateur musicians, brought him up on a diet of the classics. Under Oliver Knussen at the Royal College of Music's junior department, Turnage came to his studies well-versed with Boulez and Stockhausen. However, at the Royal College's senior department, he grew disillusioned with the European avant-garde.

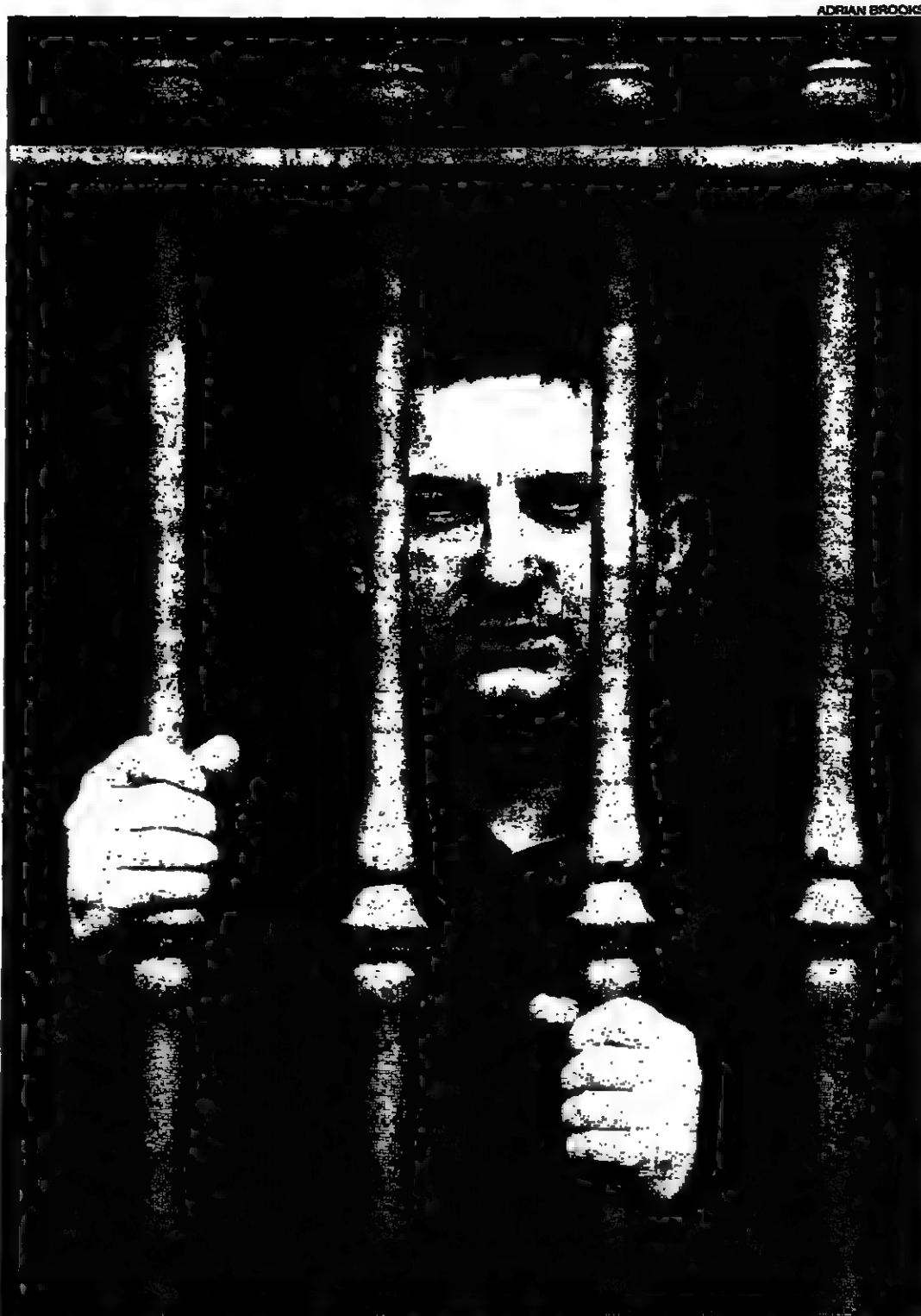
"From 1978 I was obsessed with jazz. I suddenly found out that these world-class figures — Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, Miles Davis — excluded from music history, were doing things in the 1950s that were more interesting than Boulez's *Pli selon pli*."

In all his work from *Screaming Popes* on, Turnage has borrowed brilliantly from jazz's improvisatory rhythms and textures. He has done so without any of the preciousness of more high-minded composers, and a marked lack of the anorak expertise of the conventional jazz freak.

This appealing unpretentiousness was wonderfully on show in Frankfurt. During a rehearsal break, Erskine and Scofield jammed together for ten minutes, a superb little duet of just electric guitar and drums. The Ensemble's players were transfixed. Standing closest of all to the two Americans was Turnage, smiling broadly.

"I'm a bit of a fan of people," he said later. "In a sense, I'm really just a teenybopper."

Blood on the Floor will be played at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 0QT (0171-960 4342) tomorrow and Friday at 8pm.



"The jazz and classical worlds are so divided," says Mark-Anthony Turnage. He was brought up in the classical idiom, but his new work *Blood on the Floor* was written with top jazz musicians in mind

Packing a punch

THE Turning World festival is an annual celebration of contemporary dance from abroad. This year's edition includes the latest from Berlin's Sasha Waltz, Prague's Lenka Flory, Montpellier's Mathilde Monnier, Valencia's Vicente Saez. But the festival opened with a look back, at the first work created by the Belgian choreographer Wim Vandekeybus.

What the Body Does Not Remember, made in 1987, belongs to that brand of dance-theatre that was so popular in the Eighties: all power, punch and peril. Objects are thrown — most frightening are what appear to be concrete bricks — and dancers are subjected to intense physical pressures. The

Wim Vandekeybus
The Place Theatre

audience is left reeling. There is a repetition and perseverance to the choreography that suggests an epic struggle (albeit not without its humour) to overcome the obstacles of a frenetic world. The work's emotional heart is revealed in scenes, some harrowing, others heart-breakingly futile, that could be realisations of a group therapy session on anger and frustration.

Dancers, from Vandekeybus's Ultima Vez company, sling the concrete slabs at each other like deranged stone masons having a collective nervous breakdown, while others use them to build precarious bridges. The dancers endure body-pounding duets that are charged with sexual aggression and male-female antagonism. Even the aural background (music by Thierry De Mey and Peter Vermeersch) is brutal.

Although Vandekeybus uses parallel images of manipulation at the beginning and end, *What the Body Does Not Remember* is not set within a cohesive structure. Instead the effect is like that of a carousel: it doesn't matter where you get on, the ride is always the same.

DEBRA CRAINE

DEGAS: BEYOND IMPRESSIONISM — DAY FIVE



Degas the draughtsman: *After the bath*, c.1890-93

Richard Cork selects highlights from the National Gallery's current exhibition of later works by the master

A host of pictures testify to Degas' obsession with this pose. Like so many of his bathing figures, the woman's face is turned away from us, so nothing distracts us from the vigorous movement of her body. Flushed with warmth from the hot water, she rubs the nape of her neck with a towel wrapped firmly around her hand. Degas' virtuoso command of the pastel medium allows him to convey the towel's fluffiness.

But he is just as persuasive in his treatment of her glowing flesh. This deserves to be ranked among the most sensuous of all Degas' nudes. It is a delectable image, and far more celebratory than later, more disturbing pictures in the same series. Degas rejoices in the rumpled movement of the dangling towel, and reinforces its dynamism in the curtains' even greater turbulence. Cascading down from the top of the picture, and invading her body on the right, they set the whole composition into billowing motion.

Degas' use of pastel becomes very excitable above her shoulder, where he peppers the image with stabs of whiteness. But the focus ultimately rests on the woman's body, modelled with subtlety and vigour by the most searching, resourceful draughtsman of his era.

• Degas: *Beyond Impressionism* is at the National Gallery until Aug 26 (tickets from First Call, 0171-420 0000)
• Tomorrow, Richard Cork continues his Degas guide with a discussion of *Woman at her bath* (c. 1893-94)

Garden party



membership number. But hurry, because tickets are limited.

Ambassadors Theatre

May 30-June 3
• SARA CROWE, Kim Criswell and Peter Duncan head a cast of rising stars in *Dames at Sea*, a non-stop, tap-happy 21 gun salute to the movie musicals of the 1930s. Theatre Club members can save 25 per cent on the top two ticket prices (normally £18.50 to £25) for the 8pm performances on May 30, 31 and June 3; as well as the 3pm matinee on May 30

Freemasons' Hall

May 30-June 1
• PAUL GOODWIN conducts the acclaimed period instrument orchestra, the Academy of Ancient Music, in a semi-staged evening of rarely heard Mozart gems: *The Impresario* and *Zaide*. Club members can save 25 per cent on the top three ticket prices (normally £20 to £40).

St Paul's Church

June 7-8
• THE National Youth Music Theatre presents *The Ballad of Salomon Pavey*. The piece uses music of the period to punctuate the fascinating tale of a child actor who died in 1603 at the age of 13. Save 25 per cent on the top three ticket prices (normally £14 to £20)

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DARLINGTON

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LIVERPOOL

Nephew Theatre
June 4-5
• TICKETS £5 (normally £8) for Brendan O'Carroll's *The Course*, the comedy that took Ireland by storm. Tel 0151-709 7844

SOUTHAMPTON

Mayflower Theatre
July 26-27
• SAVE £3.50 on the top three prices (normally £17.50 to £22.50) for *Evita*, starring Marti Webb. Telephone 01703 711811

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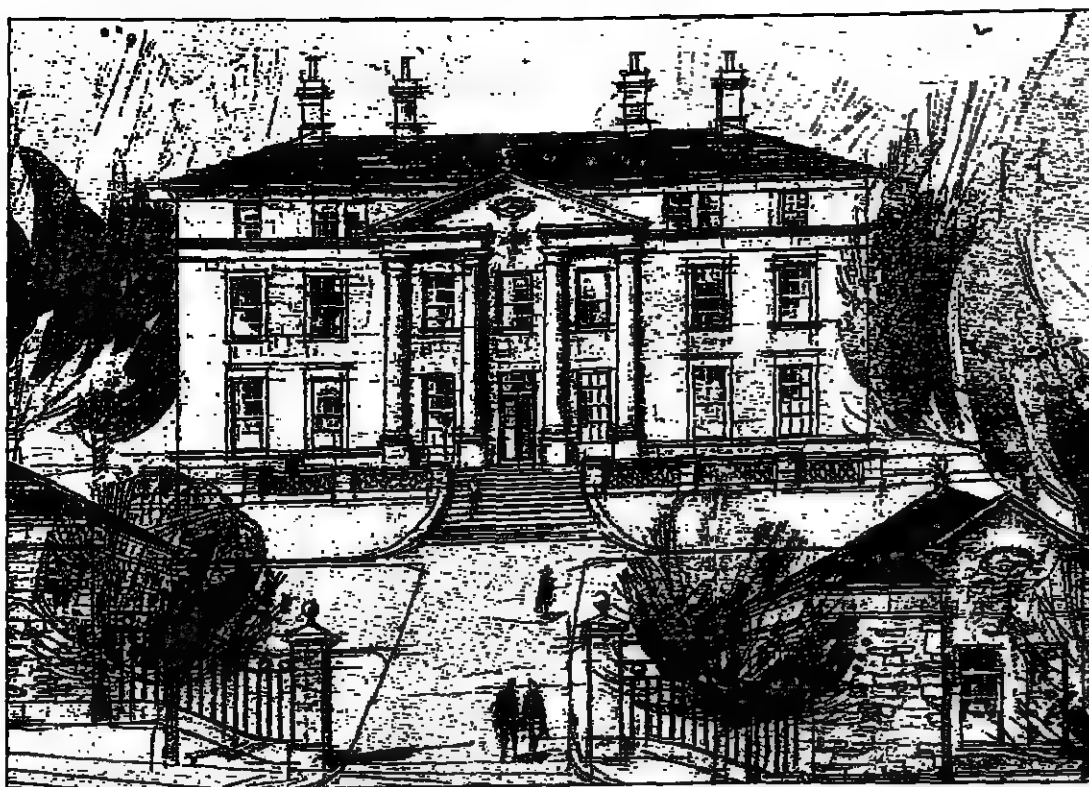
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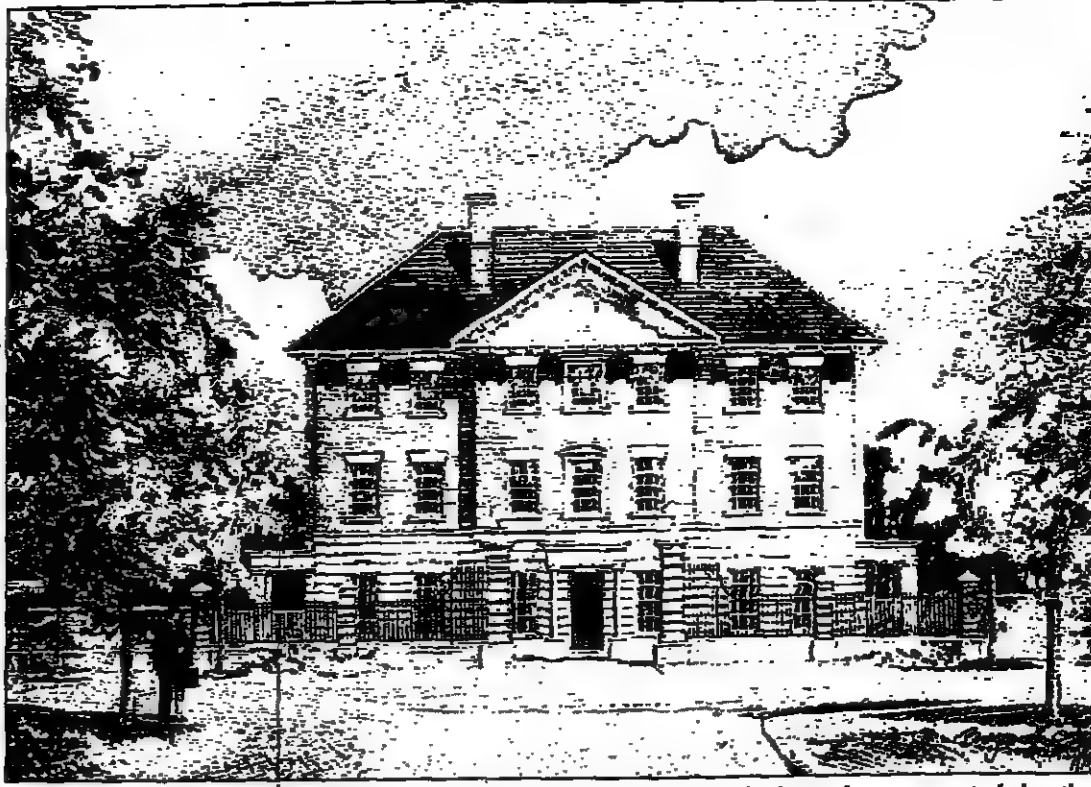
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A stunning Mayfair g

Modern flats these days masquerade as period villas. Rachel Kelly reports on a planner-driven design trend



Cavendish Lodge, in Bath, is designed by a specialist in the classical country-house style; and The Manor House, Oaklands Manor House, Great Notley, Essex, which is due to be constructed shortly



Thoroughly modern mansions

Divide and prosper could be the motto of today's builders. A rash of new baronial mansions are being built, their facades Georgian and their entrances porticoed. They may look like modern stately homes, but tucked behind their period fronts are a dozen or so flats or houses. Welcome to the modern apartment block masquerading as a period villa.

Where once developers might have built in glass, now they build in stone. Where once their designs could have been dubbed Modernist, now they are firmly Retro. Such traditional schemes have flourished in order to ensure planning permission.

Trisha Gupta is chief architect for Countryside Properties, which is building Great Notley Garden Village, near Braintree in Essex. Its centrepiece is a mansion house divided into three town houses. Planners are attracted by such buildings which inevitably provide a focal point for new schemes. Surrounding buildings can then reflect their architecture, forming a sympathetic whole.

If such blocks are sited in city centres, then conservative designs are more likely to dovetail with existing surroundings. For example, the Bentley Gate scheme in the conservation area of Stanmore, Middlesex, echoes existing architecture. The property is built from hand-made bricks, and has Georgian barred windows. "We have incorporated reconstituted stone quoins and a slate roof with dormer windows," says Graham Bell, from the developers Charles Church.

Such plans find favour with pressure groups such as the Urban Villages forum, which is pressing for more developments to adopt village characteristics.

We should heed their concerns. The scale of the prospective building boom is awesome. The Government predicts the need for 4.4 million new homes in the next 20 years, fuelled by social changes,

CAVENDISH LODGE, BATH
Built by Beaufort Homes, it is designed by William Bertram, an architect specialising in classical housing. He is best known for his work on the Prince of Wales's Highgrove home, and has used £1 million of Bath stone, full-height portico, gate lodges, private drive, and gardens. Mod cons include a hydraulic lift and security system. There are 20 flats, mostly two-bedroom and two-bathroom, plus two detached, two-bedroom lodge houses, priced from £255,000 to £310,000 and ready next January.

SPRINGWOOD HALL, TONBRIDGE
Modelled on Dene Park, an existing Victorian mansion converted by the developers Honeygrove, with a Gothic revival roofline, hand-crafted joinery and ten-ha hectare country park setting. There are 18 two to four-bedroom apartments, priced around £200,000 to £400,000. Completion is expected next year.

BENTLEY GATE, STANMORE, MIDDLESEX
Described as "outage Georgian" by developers Charles Church, using reconstituted stone quoins and hand-made bricks. Mod cons include a communal satellite dish, secure underground parking, wiring for infra-red remote control of audio and video systems. There are 24 two and three-bedroom apartments, including five penthouses, from £180,000 to £360,000.

OAKLANDS MANOR HOUSE, GREAT NOTLEY GARDEN VILLAGE, ESSEX
"It's classical, but not a pastiche. We're not slavishly copied anything. It's meant to be reminiscent of a manor house," says Trisha Gupta, chief architect of Countryside Properties. There are reconstituted stone sills and lintels, full-height portico, an avenue approach, gate lodges, and mature woodland backdrop. Construction is due to begin shortly.

AMANDA LOOSE

such as divorce and longer life expectancy. Up to half of these homes will be built on brown-field sites in urban areas, but the rest will be tucked onto urban fringes and green-field sites. If these new communities are to have soul, they need focal points. In his discussion document, *Quality in town and country*, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, calls for a return to traditional town planning. Modern mansion blocks may help to combine that

focus, sense of community and sympathetic architecture for which planners are supposedly striving. But even such pastiche developments can trouble planners. Cavendish Lodge, for example, is a four-storey block of flats behind the facade of a Palladian villa in Bath. It was only built after an eight-year battle for planning permission, with skirmishes en route with Bath Council, the High Court, and the Court of Appeal.

Demand is high. Here is a way to

enjoy all the prestige of a large country house without the hassle. Approached by sweeping gravel drives and lodge houses, the modern manor flat enjoys tight security, underground parking, lifts, high levels of insulation, heating and plumbing, and improved sound insulation. And, at 18,000 sq ft, they are the same size as a typical five-bedroom house.

Nick Davies is another architect at Countryside Properties. He cites the nostalgia rampant among to-

day's insecure homebuyers recovering from years of falling house prices. "People want something which has been around for a long time. We are trying to offer the benefits they perceive an older house to have — architectural style, character, and greater feelings of spaciousness — without the disadvantages, like dry rot."

Bob Stephens, of Beaufort Homes, says: "People in this country are traditionalists, and we all respect old buildings. There is an

understandable desire to want to live in classical buildings. If we can combine that with the advantages of new buildings, then it is seen by purchasers as a double benefit." Flats are usually sold before such schemes are completed. At Bentley Gate, three quarters of the 24 apartments have already been sold for between £180,000 and £365,000 and eight of the 20 flats at Cavendish Lodge have been reserved.

Springwood Hall, a Victorian-style country house near Tonbridge in Kent, will have 18 flats. It has been developed by Honeygrove Properties. Jonathan Leeson from the firm says: "People moving out of Victorian homes which are now too large for them still want the benefits of a spacious house. Springwood is popular with businessmen looking for a UK base, with foreign investors, or as an out-of-town weekend retreat. It is like having your own stately home, but living in a wing of it, as many aristocratic families do today."

Such builders are following in the footsteps of Kit Martin, doyen of country-house conversions. His current schemes include the conversion of the Georgian square of the Royal Naval Hospital in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, the castle of Formakin in Renfrewshire, Scotland, and the estate of Maristow in Devon, overlooking the Tavy Estuary.

The maths add up for developers starting afresh. "With a refurbishment you are always exposing things you were not aware of, which increases costs," says Mr Leeson. "It is also easier to incorporate up-to-date features in new buildings, such as security measures and wiring, rather than in existing mansions where it is often difficult to hide wiring."

New schemes, however, rarely enjoy the established grounds and locations of their genuinely period counterparts.

Fancy a holiday in a Lutyens house?

Trust home is put in hands of a charity

A fine house built by Edwin Lutyens, with a garden planted by Gertrude Jekyll, has been handed over to the charity The Landmark Trust. The house will be let to the public for holidays.

Goddards, near Abinger Common in Surrey, was previously owned by the Lutyens Trust. But it has been unable to make ends meet by opening the distinctive house, with its deep eaves shading banded windows, to the public. It has sold it to the Landmark Trust on a 99-year lease at a peppercorn rent.

The Lutyens Trust will continue to occupy the library to use as an office and will also have the use of the whole building for one week each year.

Goddards was built for a Frederick Mirrielees, originally as a holiday home for



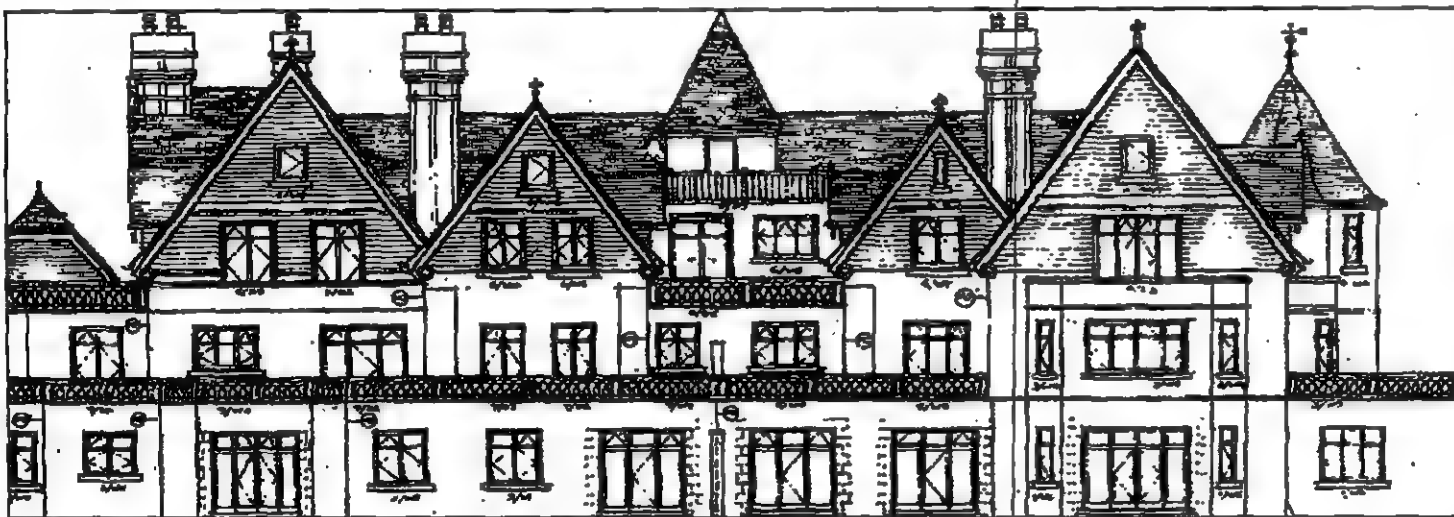
Goddards: garden view

"ladies of small means". Between 1898 and 1900 it was enlarged to make it a suitable home for Mr Mirrielees's son, Donald. In 1953 the house was bought by a Mr and Mrs Hall, who gave Goddards to the Lutyens Trust in November 1991 in memory of their son, Lee Heath Hall.

There had so appreciated being brought up at Goddards that he studied architecture at Cambridge University, where he gained a First. He died tragically young on December 13, 1988.

There will be 12 bedrooms to let at Goddards costing from £870 to £1,334 a week. The house will be closed to visitors this year, but open to the public on Wednesday afternoons in 1997.

RACHEL KELLY



Springwood Hall, Tonbridge, is set in a park and modelled on a Victorian mansion. It will contain 18 two to four-bedroomed flats

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Things that go crunch in the night

Sally Ballard on how to identify the voracious moths and grubs that you find when spring-cleaning

Spring-cleaning may unearth more than spent Christmas tree needles and months of winter dust. The gradual warmth fires microscopic jaws into a frenzy of eating — the menu being the very fabric of the house.

Many people are unaware that the tiny clothes moths, house moths and carpet beetle grubs — the scourge of natural fibres — do not confine their tastes solely to woolly jumpers, silk underwear and fur hats. They can cause enormous damage to pipe lagging and felt insulation in house and loft spaces — quite apart from feasting on carpets and upholstery.

The most likely places for the grubs to begin their lives are in bird and wasp nests hidden away under eaves and in lofts. "People should keep birds from nesting in the guttering and the loft," says Tony Stephens, public relations manager of Rentolol, the pest control company. "A bird's nest has a little jungle of nine or ten insect species living in it. From here the larvae will migrate along pipework and get into the house, especially the airing cupboard."

Perforated jumpers and T-

shirts are giveaway signs that someone is sharing your clothing and living space. Suspicious should be aroused when tiny grubs just a few millimetres long are seen on carpets or clothing. Near indistinguishable holes are a sure sign that the fibre has been broken down. Cast skins, dusty droppings or fluttering moths show that some biological process is going on in the home. It may be advisable to replace felt insulation and similar lagging around pipes with synthetic materials, says Mr Stephens.

Many pests need a humid environment in order to thrive. So eliminating damp areas will help to control outbreaks, he advises. There are 15 species of carpet beetle grub living in the British Isles. They tend to chomp away unnoticed in dark, out-of-the-way places such as under the sofa, in the underlay of carpets, in rarely vacuumed corners, where carpets join skirting boards, and in the dust between the floorboards.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. L. MASON/ARDEA

The larvae of the commonly found brown house moth feeds on dried animal and vegetable material and can bite its way through most packing materials such as paper, cardboard, polythene and polystyrene. The common clothes moth grub, a creamy white caterpillar, causes extensive damage to wool, fur, dried skins and leather.

The larvae will munch at will, so that instead of destroying one jumper with lots of holes, they can destroy several, with a single hole in each. The life-cycle of these insects generally follows a similar pattern. From eggs laid by the adult moth or beetle emerge the larvae with their scissor-like jaws. This, when fed, goes into a dormant pupal state before emerging as a short-lived adult who mates, lays eggs on suitable foodstuff, such as clothing or carpets, ready for the cycle to begin again. The grub may live several weeks. The adult's life is usually numbered in days. Some moths and carpet beetles can produce two or three generations a year.

Clothing that is to be put away for some time should be thoroughly washed to dislodge eggs or grubs and then stored in zip-up clothes bags. Carpets should not be stored in the attic — neither should offcuts be used for lagging pipes. If carpets show signs of attack they should be treated with a moth repellent and new carpets should be proofed when first laid down. If larvae are found they should be squashed.

The last resort is to burn

badly damaged clothing to prevent reinfestation — otherwise articles which can be repaired should be thoroughly brushed to remove eggs and then washed. "I have dealt with tapestries, carpets, clothing of good quality wool and silks," says Garrick Hawkes, who runs County Pest Control Contracts, in Daventry. "A dead bird down a blanked-off chimney or in the attic can be a real problem. I have seen the grubs strip a carcass of a dead pigeon in a loft. They can quite happily eat through that and then walk through the house."

Sparrows use feathers to line their nest, providing protein for the beetle grubs. Starlings are dirty in their nesting habits which attracts the beetle grubs and the blood-sucking bird mite. The house marta is one of the main carriers of the ladybird-sized, crab-like bed bug, says Mr Hawkes. A spring clean should include clearing all nesting material out of the attic and from under the eaves. If moving into a home

already furnished with carpets, he suggests calling a pest control firm to inspect them for signs of beetles.

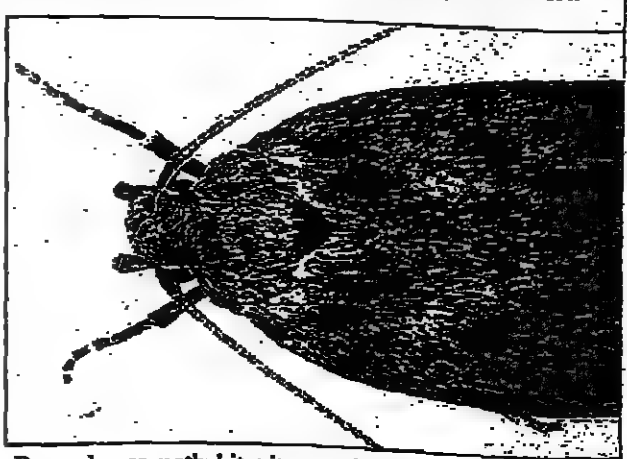
One particular irony comes in the form of the Guernsey carpet beetle. Its first sighting was when it was found chomping its way through some of the 27 million insect specimens housed in the entomology department at the Natural History Museum. "All that the beetle larvae leave are the pins, the labels and piles of dust," says George Elms, manager of the museum's Insect Information Services. "These beetles and moths are all around. They cannot be prevented from entering the house and most homes will be infested. All you can do is to protect specific items."

The Natural History Museum's Insect Information Service offers a free inquiry and identification service. Write to The Manager, Insect Information Services, Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

A reputable pest control firm should be a member of The British Pest Control Association or The National Pest Technicians Association, advised Garrick Hawkes. For names of local pest control members ring 0115 982 6651.



Carpet beetle: there are 15 species found in Britain



Brown house moth: bites its way through packing materials

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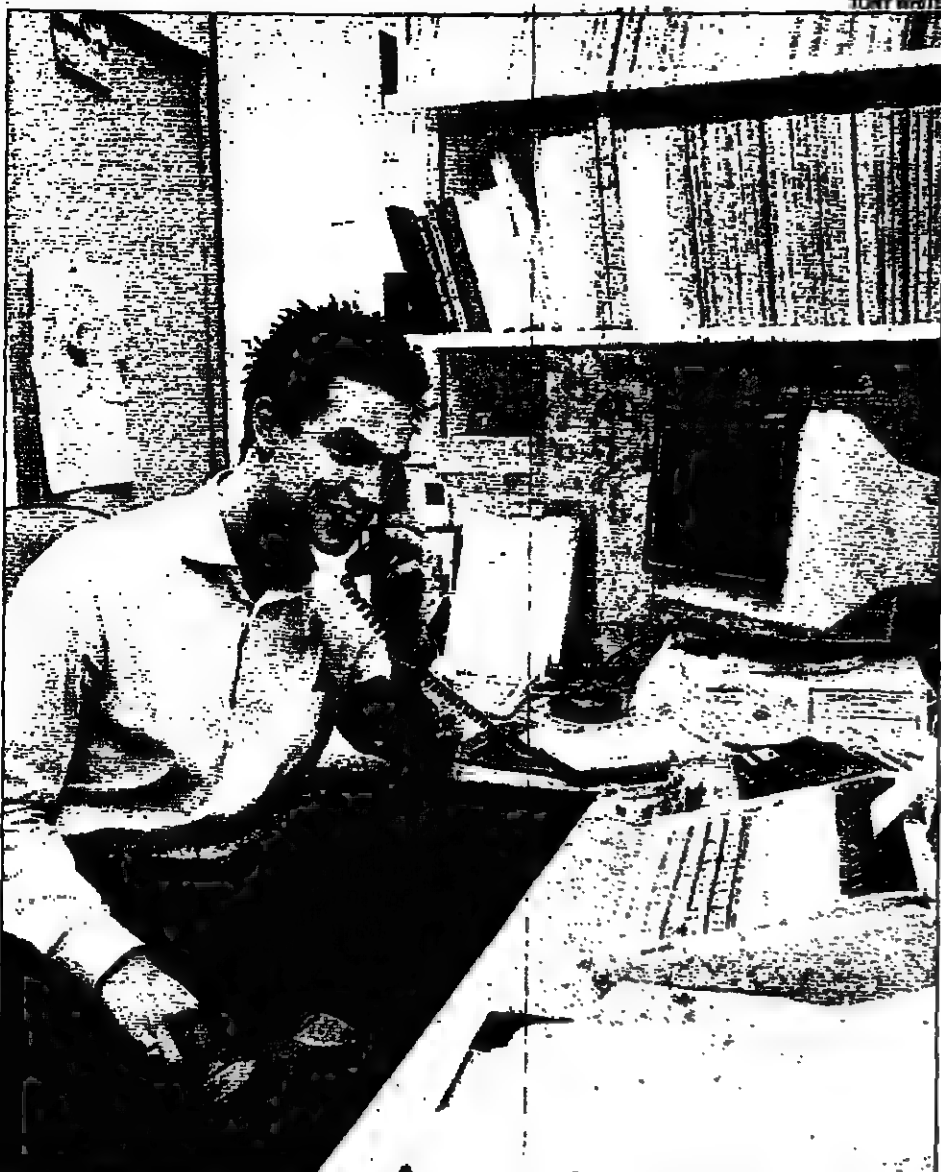
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Robert Collins has a first-class Oxford degree, but started work as a part-time typist

Keyboard key to a career

Secretaries are no longer confined to the typing pool, and the job is recognised as a potential launching pad to much greater responsibility, writes Julia Lewis

I never entered my head to seek promotion when I was a secretary in the Sixties. I did change jobs, but only to move sideways, usually because I felt it was time to try something new.

Graduates were in a different league. They may have started at the bottom, but their fingers never touched the keyboard. They were the future high-flyers, we were the ones left behind, pounding away on our typewriters.

Today's situation can hardly be more different, partly because of the recession and partly changing attitudes and expectations. Secretarial work is beginning to be recognised — by both bosses and employees — as an invaluable training ground. Those who scorn it may well be losing out.

Both men and women, graduates and non-graduates alike, are now often starting off at the same level — doing a job that involves typing the boss's letters, whether called assistant, co-ordinator or secretary. While some are doing the job for its own sake, others are seeing it as a way of getting a foot in the door, and of gaining experience.

"Men are expected to type now," says Jago Irwin, 24, an architectural history graduate, who has realised he may lose out without keyboard skills. He is employed in the post-

rooms of actors and writers agents Peters Fraser & Dunlop, having done a series of "odds and ends" in the way of jobs. To make the vital leap from post-room to agent's assistant, he is about to take a typing course.

The same firm employs Robert Collins, 23, who has a first-class degree in modern languages from Oxford, as a part-time typist. Mr Collins, who works for the agent Anthony Jones, went to St James' Secretarial College, believing it "a useful thing to do". When the job turned up, it seemed perfect — he had the afternoon free to write his novel. Opportunities are there, says Mr Collins: "Already I'm doing a bit more apart from the typing — they're delegating things to me simply by dint of being here, knowing the clients and what is going on. And, of course, by typing Anthony's letters I get a good idea of what he's doing."

Design graduate Lucy MacKenzie, 25, found it hard to survive in the competitive world of design — despite having won a Habitat competition — and reluctantly resorted to a secretarial course. Through the recruitment agency Angela Mortimer she found a job as production secretary with SFTV, the independent television company

the ladder," she says. Without time or the means to take a course, she used the computer in the local library to work through the Word for Windows tutorial and teach-yourself typing programme.

Her opportunity to put her new skills into practice came while she was a temporary receptionist in an insurance company.

"They kept giving me different things to do and then realised that I could do more. I started typing letters, using the database, and dealing with customers."

Ms Finch showed such potential that one of the bosses, leaving for a rival firm, took her with him as his PA.

Most young secretaries would agree that they quickly gain confidence as well as experience by virtue of being in the job. Claire Morgan, 21, who trained at Queen's Marborough College after her A-levels, says that when she started in the management consultancy division of the

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'If you don't make an effort, you will not get on. The people who do are those who notice things that need doing without being asked'

which makes programmes for BBC schools television. A year later, she's "thrilled" with her change of prospects. She is now a production co-ordinator and has already designed several props for a series.

With only one O-level, Emma Finch, 24, felt her future was bleak. "I just wanted to teach myself something that would take me up

accountants Ernst & Young she was so shy she was "like a frightened rabbit". Now she is a different person. "It's done me the power of good. It's such a large organisation and you have to get used to dealing with so many people."

Young people, however, must be realistic in their expectations, says Amanda Maine-Tucker, the recruitment consultant. Many, especially graduates, feel too grand for secretarial work and complain that they are not getting on fast enough.

"The world really is your oyster if you can get your foot into a company — you have a wonderful opportunity to get experience. But if you just sit there and don't make an extra effort, you will not get on. The people who get on are those who notice things that need doing without being asked. Say you are typing a letter which says 'we'd like to hear from you in a week', you'll note that in your diary and in a week's time you'll tap your boss on the shoulder saying: 'Did they get back to you?'"

There are opportunities to progress, especially in PR, marketing and retailing, adds Charlotte Summers, a recruitment consultant. But being a graduate does not guarantee promotion. A bright young person with GCSEs may go far with the right attitude.

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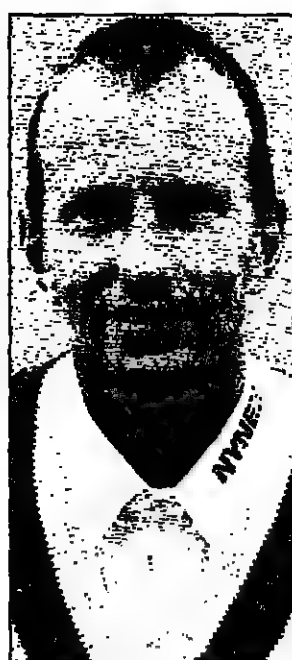
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Brown's horizons must not be limited by England



Fairbrother: miscast

A trend is taking hold in English cricket that is unlikely, in the long term, to be to its advantage. Players are being prematurely labelled as either one-day specialists or Test match technicians, whereas in fact the best at one are much the most likely to be, or to become, the best at the other.

The World Cup, the blue ribbon of the one-day game, has always been won by countries playing their Test sides. West Indies fielded theirs when they won at Lord's in 1975 and 1979, as did India when they won there in 1983, and Australia when they won in Calcutta in 1987, and Pakistan in Melbourne in 1992, and Sri Lanka in Lahore in 1996.

England, on the other hand, seem increasingly to be categorising their up-and-coming players, almost making

two separate species of them, and I am not at all sure that is wise.

An early example was the case of Neil Fairbrother. I well remember the day at Lord's in 1991 when Denis Compton opened the stands named after himself and Bill Edrich during the lunch interval of a one-day international. England were playing West Indies, who were still a considerable force, and they won because of a wonderful innings by Fairbrother. He made 113 in 107 balls and in poor light, and into the bargain he sparked in the field.

Having seen a player after his own heart, Compton said to one of the England selectors: "Bravo, we've found a class batsman". "Ah, but only in one-day cricket," came the reply, or words to that effect. After a disappointing start to



John Woodcock believes the categorisation of players is detrimental in the long term

his Test career, Fairbrother had already been branded, and although the first Test match of that summer started only ten days later he was chosen neither for that nor for any of the other four. It gave him not only a reputation but also, arguably, a complex which he has never really thrown off.

The latest potential victim of this syndrome is, of course, Alistair Brown, who was presented with a task at the Oval last Thursday that would have been beyond most attacking batsmen. Fitting a bowler of Javagal Srinath's experience and ability into the open spaces, with the new ball

moving about as it was then, would have tested Gilbert Jessop or Lesie Constantine or Charlie Barnett, three ideal "pinch-hitters" for you, let alone a freshman feeling his way. Brown is "fresh from Nature's mould".

No doubt there is work to be done on his technique, but as he showed at Old Trafford on Monday, he really is some striker of a cricket ball. There is not much of him, but what there is is very strong; he has a good eye, and at 26 he is not too young and he is not too old. He has, what is more, a batting average of 45 from his first 65 first-class matches and that is much more likely to

signify a player of consequence than a mere adventurer. If Brown has the temperament and the will to learn, and he tightens a few screws, he could become a kind of cricketering Ian Woosnam, who grew accustomed to being underestimated as a professional golfer.

In this country, Sanath Jayasuriya, Sri Lanka's pride and joy and the toast of the World Cup this year, would have been a strong candidate for being dismissed in his youth as a one-day pinch-hitter and brought out just for one-day internationals, much like Fairbrother. Yet not six weeks before rattling up 82 in 44 balls against England at Faisalabad in March, he made 48 and 112 in a Test match against Australia in Adelaide. Given the right conditions and the right encouragement and the oppor-

tunity, he can play both games, different though they may be, and so, I believe, could Brown.

After England's victory at Old Trafford on Monday, Michael Atherton said that the selectors will have "entirely different priorities in mind" when they choose their teams for the forthcoming Test matches. Matthew Maynard, another player with real flair, and Brown, despite his defiant hundred, must have felt as if they had been told that they were not scholarship material, but that when there was another Texaco one-day quiz it would be nice to have them along. If the scholarship side were themselves doing better, that might not have jarred quite as it did: even so, this idea of labelling players seems to me divisive — and not something to become understood.



Brown: misunderstood

Yorkshire secure semi-final place

Byas walks tall in crushing defeat of Surrey

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE OVAL (Yorkshire won toss; Yorkshire beat Surrey by nine wickets)

YORKSHIRE walked all over Surrey yesterday and, after the way Surrey have started the season, that is quite an achievement. The man who left the biggest footprints was their captain, David Byas, who won the gold award for his first century in the Benson and Hedges Cup, and his best score in one-day cricket. On this showing, Yorkshire need fear nobody.

Byas, aided by Vaughan and then by Bevan, made the Surrey bowling look very ordinary and, to be frank, much of it was. By the end of a day that began under the sun and ended under lowering skies and the threat of rain, Surrey looked a rabble at times. It took Lewis all of seven minutes to bowl his sixth over, by which time the game was well and truly won and lost. Much good those deliberations did him.

Bevan, even more than Byas, is the key man in this maturing Yorkshire side. He has assumed the role of overseas player with a confidence that has clearly infected the younger members of a well-balanced team and he was at his withering best here. He took five leg-side boundaries from Benjamin's last over as though by right, illustrating the difference in class that separated the teams. There were 125 overs left when he swung the winning runs over mid-wicket.

Byas began the day well, winning the toss and giving his bowlers first use of a pitch that offered them some assistance. No ball misbehaved but there was something for the

man who constantly landed the ball on a good length. Later, Lewis produced an absolute snorter with his first ball, to Vaughan, but neither he nor the other Surrey bowlers hit that patch often enough. The Yorkshiremen observed a better length and, no less significantly, found a tighter line.

Although Yorkshire's fielding was not flawless — Byas missed Brown at slip early on — the Surrey batsmen were in a benevolent mood. Ward and Brown drove straightforward catches. Stewart played on trying to cut a ball that was too close for the stroke to be executed safely and Hollisake was leg-before to Stemp's second ball, his bat outside the line of one that straightened.

Thorpe held the fort all too briefly and when Stemp bowled him, by pushing the ball through quicker and fuller, Surrey surrendered their last authentic batsman. Lewis contributed 32 useful runs, and there were some successful strokes from the Bickells, but a score of 229 never looked adequate.



Byas: one-day best

Silverwood, who took three wickets, two to catches off his own bowling, once again revealed his promise.

Stewart summoned his men for a huddle when Surrey took the field and before long they were in a muddle. Byas and Vaughan did not tear into the bowling but, because so much of it was misdirected, they found boundaries at their leisure. By the time Vaughan drove Benjamin to Lewis in the gully in the fifteenth over, the openers had shared 94 runs.

The distinction of Byas's innings was his driving, particularly his straight driving. He went to 50 in 39 balls, finding the ropes eight times, the seventh a drive off the back foot through mid-on off Julian, the eighth a blistering front foot drive through mid-off. Darren Bicknell was feeling rather foolish by then, having missed a chance Byas offered when he was 15. The ball reached Bicknell at a good height and he got both hands to it so it was a bad miss.

No matter how Stewart juggled his bowlers the changes had little effect. Bevan took two strides down the pitch to Pearson, the off spinner, and singled the bowler's whiskers with a drive that bounced back from the pavilion gates. The next ball, which was not a half volley, was driven beautifully past extra cover, along the ground. It was proper batting.

When he made 93 Byas reached his highest score in the competition and his century came from 85 balls with 16 fours. Together Byas and Bevan added 136 in 22 overs and played with a comfort that made light of their task. Surrey, who won all four of their group matches, had been routed.

□ Sir Donald Bradman, whose greatness as a cricketer has been matched by his stubbornness in rejecting offers to do lengthy television interviews, will be the subject of a two-hour programme, *Don Bradman — 87 Not Out*, in Australia today. He will appear in a face-to-face interview with Ray Martin, having been persuaded to do so during a meeting with Kerry Packer, the owner of the Nine Network, which will broadcast the programme.



Thorpe departs after losing his middle stump to Stemp, the Yorkshire left-arm spinner, at the Oval yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Bailey builds on Capel's destructive start

BY SIMON WILDE

NORTHAMPTON (Kent won toss; Kent beat Northamptonshire by 186 runs in 29.1 overs to beat Northamptonshire)

LAST YEAR, it took Northamptonshire until July 9 to win a limited-over match against another county; this year they seem unable to do anything else. Today they should complete their ninth win out of nine and move into the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-finals at the expense of Kent.

Their score of 293 for seven is impressive but not unbeatable on an excellent batting pitch. Kent, however, showed insufficient resolve in the 20.5 overs before the last of several interruptions brought an end to play to suggest that they can pull this match out of the fire.

What play there was saw some outstanding batting, the highlights of which were one superb "orthodox" one-day innings from the in-form Rob

Bailey and two brilliant exhibitions of hitting by David Capel and Matthew Fleming.

Both were promoted to hit over the inner ring of fielders in the early stages and, in their differing ways, did so to devastating effect. When Capel was out in Northamptonshire's thirteenth over, he had scored 63 out of 76 from 45 balls, with 11 fours; when Fleming was out in Kent's sixth over — unhappy that play was continuing in drizzle — he had struck 40 out of 56 from 23 balls, with nine fours. It was breathtaking stuff.

While Fleming is carving a new career for himself out of such early-order destruction, Capel finds the term pinch-hitter offensive to his ideals of aggressive stroke-making. But in racing to a 29-ball half-century he offered one chance and took risks he would rarely contemplate in other circumstances.

He created merry havoc among Kentish ranks, with McCague pulled out of the attack after his first two overs had cost 20. He was entrusted with only five further overs. With the exception of Ealham, Kent's bowling was wayward and their out-cricketer unsurpassed, except for one agile piece of fielding by Hooper that cost Warren his wicket.

Attuned to winning, Northamptonshire were far more focused in the field, which made Fleming's performance all the more astonishing. Taylor's first over went for 16 and Ambrose can rarely have seen two of his first five balls clipped to the boundary with such nonchalance.

One of the differences between the sides was how they batted once these hitters departed. Whereas Kent collapsed, Northamptonshire flourished, under the careful stewardship of Bailey, who had quietly dug himself in towards the end of Capel's stay. Lloye was his principal partner in a stand of 87, but Montgomery and Penberthy also lent sensible support.

There can be few better batsmen in the county game at pacing an innings than Bailey, who scarcely looked like getting out or failing to reach his century. He got there in the final over, with a flick off his legs against Fleming that sailed over the square leg boundary, and his unbeaten 105 in 129 balls will probably bring him his fourth successive gold award.

Kent's hopes all but died in the space of seven balls. In that time, Hooper carelessly chipped Penberthy to deep mid-off and, in the same over, Cowdrey was caught behind off a superb inswinger. In the next over, Llong was also the victim of a wonderful delivery, from Curran.

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Accursed management, blessed secretaries

The curse of Tutankhamun can manifest itself in many ways. Formerly, the luckless grave-diggers who unearthed the pharaoh's tomb were afflicted with a mysterious disease. But now, at Highclere Castle in Hampshire, the curse has stretched out its raggedly bony fingers and accursed the decades to Lord Carnarvon's chippy descendants and landed them with... a business manager called Adrian! This may sound unworthy of the Big Bugged Mummy, but those of us with a vivid memory of Keith (Rottweiler) Cooper in *The House* fell into a dead faint. We managed only to whisper "Beware!" and "The curse!" and "Weep!" before consciousness was entirely lost.

To be honest, I was making my own entertainment a bit here. Last night's *Network First* *High Stakes at Highclere* (ITV) was a decent enough film, but it wasn't designed to elicit a huge emotional

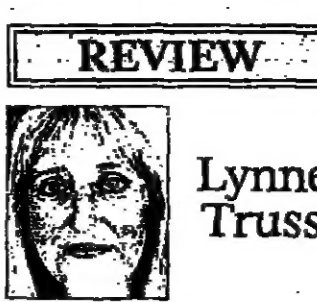
input from the viewer. It took the form of a familiar theme of cash-strapped nobles with damp in the west wing, and the eternal struggle for solvency. Shot mainly in summer, however, it seemed pretty cheerful. The sun shone bright on green castle lawns, the Carnarvon family were intelligent and good-looking, their horses won a big race at Newmarket, their housekeepers lapped up cream teas and pot plants. Things were not completely desperate. Yet the long shadow of Adrian appeared in the doorway (the curse), and all grew chill where he walked.

You remember the Sacking of the Box Office Manager in *The House*? Well, Adrian was gunning for the woman in the tea-room, who refused to admit the benefits of self-service. His main weapon, however, was sarcasm which luckily always looks contemptible on television. At one point he complained to camera about the

drinks pricing in the tea-room, in particular the beer. A pint of bitter, "anywhere in the country" was £1.80, he said. In the North, of course — "with a lot full of penguins" — it was £1.50. At Highclere, it was a pound! "What an excellent opportunity that is!" he exclaimed. But by the time he reached his conclusion, most of the viewers had stopped listening. They were still wondering where the lot full of penguins had fallen from, and wondering whether people sometimes hit Adrian smack on the nose, sort of out of the blue.

David Stafford's excellent *I'll Just See If He's In* (BBC2) continued with a historical survey of female secretarial work, with ace footage of smart women in typing classes, tapping and thumping in unison, and returning their carriages with a single "ping!"

Stafford's commentary (read by June Whitfield) was generous and clever, and allowed for the fact that, just as secretarial work is a trap for women, it is also a profession to be proud of. The joy of mastering shorthand still shone on the face of one former secretary. Another, however, remembered with less enthusiasm that, in the typing pool, her machine was monitored for "taps" — for 12,000



Lynne Truss

taps per hour, to be precise. If they didn't have anything to do, typists had to keep tapping the keys, and keep their quota up.

On the subject of typing, it often goes unnoticed in films and drama that actors pretending to type never touch the space bar. I just thought I'd mention it. Such little things often spoil one's enjoyment.

I find, pianists tinkle the keys at the wrong end, golfers lash at the ball as though killing snakes, and ancient hawks sit late at their desks in a pool of yellow light, frantically typing one very, very long word — *stehnjduntheudllgmheubghkrunduhgred* — by the hour.

Those of us who know about keyboards notice such things.

One of the greatest pleasures of *I'll Just See If He's In* was watching real typing on real typewriter keys. Such silly stuff!

Beauty! Such power of digit! Personally, as a three-finger whizz whose pinkies were unfortunately

so feeble at typing classes that with every "or" or "the" I had to lift my other fingers off the keys and perform an action like a karate chop, I gawp with joy at rapid touch-typing, rather as others gawp at figure-skating or Moon landings.

A nice touch in *I'll Just See If He's In* was that each secretary was introduced by name (of course), but also by speed. Some had shorthand of 40 wpm; others had 60. But is such a pace unnatural? Are people pushed beyond their natural limit?

Channel 4's rather good *Human Jungle* last night (the first of six) considered the pace of modern life, and it made me tired just to watch. I started typing much more slowly afterwards, anyway.

Human Jungle concerns city life, and apart from being stunningly well filmed, it trots out some interesting statistics. Accus-

tomed to fast movement and lots of control, modern man goes bonkers when he hits a traffic jam. As Samuel Beckett recognised 40 years ago, it's the hanging about we can't stand. When we call a lift, we get anxious after only 17 seconds. It's the excess adrenalin, you know.

The point was that human beings have adapted to cities. An alien environment goes mad, while humans just walk at four miles an hour and stop taking holidays. But: "I'm a human being," complained an overstressed New Yorker. "I'm not a human doing." Ah yes, the old doing-and-being debate. It made me think of that thought-provoking graffiti you used to see on walls in classy lavs: "To do is to be (Jean-Paul Sartre)." To be is to do (Schopenhauer), I said. And then, underneath, in smaller letters: "Do be do be do (Frank Sinatra)." Do

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WEDNESDAY MAY 29 1996

Ehiogu, Wise, Lee and Wilcox experience cruellest cut as England 22 are named

Venables backs the tried and trusted

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE hours of truth beckon Terry Venables's England. After 30 months without a competitive game, after last moments of personal agony, the coach yesterday shed the final four names from his squad for the European championship finals which begin on Saturday week.

His next act will be to select a team for a serious match and, within a month, it will all be over for Venables and his mission to try to turn the English national game away from its years of failure.

"Those I had to leave out are unfortunate," he said of Ugo Ehiogu, Robert Lee, Dennis Wise and Jason Wilcox, the quartet who joined the already disappointed Peter Beardsley and Gary Ballister in failing to make the cut. "But the 22 we have given England a squad of quality, versatility and flair. Above all, it is a squad which believes in itself."

How those qualities fare against the best in Europe, indeed against some of the best in the world, will soon become apparent. But, by and large, Venables has picked the best players available. He has chosen a blend of youth and experience in almost equal measures, and apart from the now almost forgotten regret over his lack of willingness to give a chance to Matthew Le Tissier, there is scarcely a performer in the domestic game who can complain that he has been overlooked.

Moreover, before the winner-take-all phase of the Venables era begins, let it be stated that his 2½ years' work, all of it in an ostensibly practice environment, was a unique and a strange experience for England. He tried to use it to change our football culture, to bury the arrogant and failed propaganda from the director of coaching of the FA, Charles Hughes, who seemed to preach that football was about numbers, that directness was all.

One would not say that Venables has been able to shift England onto the level of Brazil, but the attempt at copying Dutch football has put them much closer to the rest of the world than Hughes.

The measure of the task that Venables took on, and which, one assumes, Glenn Hoddle will try to advance, explains why so many players in the Euro 96 squad are, of necessity, young and open-minded.

The omission of Beardsley, already lamented, hides the fact that he, at 35, was more flexible and more willing to change than most of his generation. After him, the four left out yesterday had more marginal claims to a place. Ehiogu, the Aston Villa defender, must have known that he was only an outside bet, and that once Venables decided Steve Howey could be restored to fitness, his chance was lost.

Wise, after his foolish kick

Keegan as the best player in the country. He had every reason to believe that an FA Carling Premiership winners' medal was his for the taking. Newcastle United lost the championship and now Lee lost the decision between himself and Jamie Redknapp.

Venables was loath to discuss individuals yesterday. Instead, Ted Buxton, Venables's assistant and scout, offered this insight. "Jamie's just hit form again. We decided in China that he has just come back to it as Robert hit a dip in his form. With Platt certain to score vital goals, it came down to one or the other."

Additionally, from words Venables had spoken months ago, the coach has faith in the

Neville, Darren Anderton and McManaman will provide the youth in this probable line-up (3-5-1-1):

Seaman — G Neville, Adams, Pearce — Anderton, Platt, Ince, Gascoigne, McManaman — Shearer.

If, as expected, the Swiss opt for three men in attack, Venables might respond with a fourth defender, Gareth Southgate, alongside Adams. This would deplete the midfield by one, with Platt or McManaman the only candidates to be left out.

But, as the pulse rate increases, as the tension which has already started makes Venables taciturn and secretive, the ultimate questions will be asked up front. He wisely has kept both Les Ferdinand and Robbie Fowler in his squad. Ferdinand will be the main alternative to Alan Shearer, and Fowler, though his precocious brilliance as a goalscorer has yet to make an international mark, will doubtless sit impatiently on the bench.

The trust and the tolerance Venables has invested in Shearer must soon reap dividends. Shearer, 12 games and 20 months without a goal, is there because of his willingness, his mobility, his experience in leading the line. "You tell me why I have not been getting the chances," he said a week ago. "It might be a worry if I was missing chances, but they have not been coming."

Venables must quickly decide — is it the system or the man? One way or the other, now that the contest has come really to mean something, England cannot go barren into the European nights. Fowler, 85 goals in 143 Liverpool matches, and Ferdinand, 119 goals in 225 games for Queens Park Rangers and Newcastle, cannot be left idly by while impotence reigns.

Yet, Venables has his favourites. "Trust those who have done it," was a favourite saying of Helmut Schön. Hopefully, Venables might follow him, for Schön was the most successful manager in the international game.

Schön himself "stole" the saying from Virgil, who originally wrote 2,000 years ago: "Experto credite" (Trust one who has proved it).

Gorham's chance, page 45
Keane banned, page 45

ENGLAND SQUAD FOR EURO 96				
Name	Club	Age	Caps	Goals
Goalkeepers				
D Seaman	Arsenal	22	24	0
T Flowers	Blackburn	23	2	0
I Walker	Tottenham	24	2	0
Defenders				
G Neville	Man Utd	21	10	0
A Adams	Arsenal	23	40	4
S Howey	Newcastle	24	4	0
G Southgate	Aston Villa	25	4	0
S Campbell	Tottenham	21	1	0
S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	34	65	6
P Neville	Man Utd	19	1	0
Midfield players				
D Anderton	Tottenham	24	11	5
S Stone	Nottingham Forest	24	8	2
P Gascoigne	Rangers	28	38	27
P Ince	Internazionale	26	19	2
D Platt	Arsenal	29	66	22
J Redknapp	Liverpool	22	10	0
S McManaman	Liverpool	24	10	0
R Edwards	Newcastle	29	10	4
L Ferdinand	Liverpool	21	8	2
R Fowler	Middlesbrough	20	15	2
N Berrony	Tottenham	20	15	2
A Shearer	Blackburn	25	23	25

into the groin of a Hungarian defender at Wembley this month, there and then ended his right to be trusted when the tournament tensions began. But Lee, and perhaps Wilcox, were unfortunate. Wilcox, despite his late inclusion, had offered England a truly left-sided attacking player, a position Venables persists in asking of the right-footed, though infinitely more gifted, Steve McManaman.

And Lee? A few months ago, he was lauded by Kevin

22-year-old Redknapp, provided he has recaptured form and appetite after his long injury, of being the closest England possesses to a replacement, should anything happen to Paul Gascoigne.

Hong Kong certainly showed how much the mid-field lacks flair and imagination when Gascoigne is out of action. The Rangers player may have lost pace, and it must be hoped that he has lost some impetuosity, but maybe, just maybe, there are signs that he is beginning to think like a responsible playmaker.

When the opening match against Switzerland arrives, responsibility will surely be handed to a side predominantly built on experience. Gary

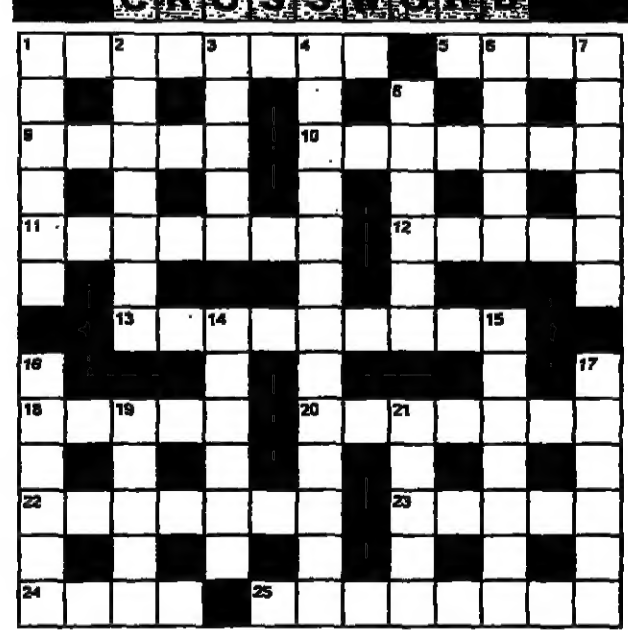


Venables arrives back at Heathrow yesterday before the announcement of the final England squad of 22.



Gary Neville, Anderton and McManaman, who will provide the youth in England's probable starting line-up

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 794

ACROSS

- Professional business (8)
- Frustrated hell (4)
- Film award (5)
- Sloping typeface (7)
- Field for horses (7)
- Bout of dissipation (5)
- Peevish (9)
- Treatment; 1 ac. (5)
- Of a wandering lifestyle (7)
- Cloyingly flattering (praise) (7)
- Inland waterway (5)
- Large container; mil. vehicle (4)
- Without knowledge (8)

DOWN

- On time; help with words (6)
- Becomes king; formally agrees (7)
- Supercharged car (5)
- Which-came-first situation (7-3-3)
- Extraterrestrial being (5)
- One struggling to breathe; a cigarette (6)
- Risky ploy (6)
- Keep one's head down (3,3)
- Showy solo (mus.) (7)
- Strike; cold spread (6)
- Make a carving (6)
- Central Irish bog; type of key (5)
- Aggressively masculine (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 793

ACROSS: 1 Risk 3 Clerical 5 Chagrin 10 Pike 11 Cakes and Ale 13 Endear 15 Pestle 17 Mischiefvous 20 Anger 21 Antigua 22 Unsaddle 23 Once

DOWN: 1 Ricochet 2 Smack 4 Lining 5 Replacement 6 Culvert 7 Lath 9 Rest assured 12 Persuade 14 Damages 16 Thrall 18 Organ 19 Babu

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 789

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Head 3 Colubrit 5 Topiary 9 Mayor 10 Curio 11 Omnibus 13 Cafeteria 17 Relapse 19 Cuppa 20 Vicar 22 Orpheus 23 Lebanon 24 Heat

DOWN: 1 Hi-tech 2 Empirical 3 Cry for the moon 4 He-mun 5 Bay 6 Thrust 7 Pay-off 12 Blasphemy 14 Recipe 15 Grovel 16 Hawser 18 Perun 21 Cob

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2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLANDS domestic network is G Madoe-Jones, Cilcain, Mold Flint. All flights subject to availability.

Resolute Warwickshire rocked by record yet still refuse to roll

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CARDIFF (Glamorgan won toss): Warwickshire beat Glamorgan by 12 runs

BY THEIR own, peerless standards, May has been an uneasy month for Warwickshire, but those who seek to doubt or denigrate them do so at their peril. They had the rough end of a spiteful pitch and a doleful weather yesterday, yet, with the character and resolution that identifies their success, Warwickshire disillusioned an expectant Sophia Gardens crowd for the second successive year to reach the last four of the Benson and Hedges Cup.

It was a breathless win, not at all reminiscent of the embarrassingly swift NatWest Trophy semi-final here last August. This time, Warwickshire were taken to the brink by Matthew Maynard and Otis Gibson, whose thrilling stand of 136 in 22 overs was a sixth-wicket record for any county limited-overs event.

Until they were parted, 24 short of the target with five overs remaining, Glamorgan were tantalisingly close to only their second semi-final in this competition. Warwickshire, however, will routinely break down a door once it is ajar and they took the last five wickets for 11 runs in only 23 balls.

There was a price to pay for victory. The bounce, from a surface that had spent too long under covers, was dangerously untrustworthy and Warwickshire's top order bore the brunt of it. Nick Knight was one of three batsmen requiring treatment for hand injuries and an X-ray revealed a small crack at the top of his left

index finger after he was hit by Gibson.

It is not a serious injury and Warwickshire hope that Knight, who did not field, will recover to play in the championship fixture at Northampton tomorrow. Knight is, however, expected to resume his Test career at Edgbaston next Thursday and so David Lloyd, the England coach, was informed of the situation.

Glamorgan had lost the toss nine times out of eleven this season but this was a good day for their luck to change. The

decision to bowl was elementary and even with Gibson half-fit, it was a fraught time to be batting as the ball either reared off a good length or scuttled through at ankle-height. Despite the relatively high scores, this was an unsuitable pitch for a one-day game and the umpires will mark it down accordingly.

Warwickshire took an early view that the bat should be swung lustily at anything of full length, a policy that worked in two ways. They connected regularly enough to

score at a healthy rate and Glamorgan's bowlers, seeking to adjust, tended to drop too short. Watkin, exemplary as ever, dismissed Smith and Knight within five overs but the promoted Brown hit out disruptively. It was a day when five or six wickets might have fallen in the first hour, but only two did so.

Butcher, who is becoming an influential cricketer, dismissed Brown and Penney with the help of loose drives but Reeve's innovations combined with the orthodoxy of Ostler in a fifth-wicket stand worth 62. Even when Pollock was needlessly run out, Warwickshire were not subdued and Ostler's stoical 85 from 100 balls shepherded them to a total which, in the conditions, appeared adequate.

It looked rather better than that when Glamorgan found the new ball as hazardous as Warwickshire had done. James was dropped at slip from Pollock's second ball of an opening over that continued with him beating Morris three times. Morris, after baleful study of the offending pitch, decided that this was a time to be playing shots rather than seeking survival.

Morris was third out, having made a thrusting 38, the first of three swift wickets for Reeve. At 80 for five, Glamorgan were sinking fast but Maynard, having made little impact for England this week, and assisted by Gibson's whirling bat, carried his side closer than had seemed possible, close enough for Warwickshire to feel they had earned a reprieve.



Knight: cracked finger



Maynard: record stand

CARDIFF SCOREBOARD

WARWICKSHIRE		GLAMORGAN	
N M K Smith c Thomas b Watkin	3	S P James c Piper b Pollock	11
N V Knight b Watkin	10	N V Knight b Reeve	36
D P Brown b Butcher	4	G P Butcher bow b Small	8
D P Ostler c Croft	85	M P Maynard bow b Small	75
L L Penney c James b Butcher	2	P A Ostler c and b Reeve	2
O A Reeve c Watson b Small	28	R D S Croft c Piper b Reeve	1
S M Pollock run out	4	O D Gibson c Ostler b Pollock	68
G Watkin c Thomas b Small	24	S O Thomas c Ostler b Small	0
A F Giles c Watson b Croft	9	R P Meson c Piper b Brown	4
G C Small run out	1	S I Watkin not out	2
N K J Piper not out	5	S R Brownick b Brown	0
Baines (lb 13, w 6, nb 6)	25	Extras (lb 1, w 10, nb 8)	17
Total (68.5 overs)	229	Total (48.3 overs)	227
Score at 15 overs: 66-2		Score at 15 overs: 66-2	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-32, 3-48, 4-81, 5-143, 6-151, 7-218, 8-229, 9-239		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-40, 3-67, 4-78, 5-80, 6-76, 7-220, 8-221, 9-227	
BOWLING: Watkin 10-2-35-2; Gibson 9-0-28-2; Thomas 6-0-29-0; Butcher 9-0-21-2; Croft 7-5-37-2; Small 10-0-40-2		BOWLING: Pollock 10-0-51-2; Brown 6-3-1-27-2; Reeve 10-1-39-3; Small 9-0-25-3; Watkin 9-0-48-0; Giles 3-0-23-0; Smith 1-0-12-0	
Umpires: A A Jones and T E Jesty		Gold Award: D P Ostler	

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